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The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu presents the Pongal gift hamper 2023

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** visited signed on the 'Women Safety Pledge' awareness banner kept at the Marina beach by the Tamil Nadu Government's 181 Women Helpline on 30.12.2022.

Tamilarasu

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Editor and Publisher

Dr.V.P. Jeyaseelan I.A.S.,
Director of Information &
Public Relations and Ex-officio
Joint Secretary to Government

Administrative Editor

R. Anna
Joint Director (Publications)

Joint Editor

A. Maheswari
Asst. Director

Associate Editors

K.A. Mohamed Rasool
S. Uthaya Kathiravan
S. Manjula

Assistant Editors

M. Manimekalai
K. Subash
R. Balaji

Reporter

S.R.S. Srindar

Senior Artist

R. Samundeeswari

Artist

R. Uma Maheswari

Junior Proof Reader
D. Priya

Designed & Printed at :
Tamilarasu Press
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Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.
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Website: www.tndipr.gov.in

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Seiyyaamal Seidha Udhavikku Vaiyyagamum
Vaanagamum Aatral Arithu *-Kural: 101*

Just as in the phrase, 'Vaaraadhu Vandha Maamani' (a great one who appears rarely), if a help that can be described as rare or extraordinary is rendered, neither the sky nor the earth are equal to it.

- From Kalaignar's commentary on the Kural

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First Wrapper

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** presented the Pongal gift hampers containing one kg rice, one kg sugar, one sugarcane and Rs.1,000 in cash, free dhotis and sarees, to rice card holders, at the Fair Price shop at Sathya Nagar on Beach Road, Chennai, on 09.01.2023.

Hon’ble Chief Minister advises students to focus on academics for a bright future

New year greetings of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin.**

I extend my warm new year greetings to the people of Tamil Nadu.

The passing of a year should not merely mean the adding of a year to our age. It should mean manifold growth in many ways.

In that sense, the past year, as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, has been one of remarkable progress in all sectors.

We changed the sluggish trend that prevailed in the State in the previous years. People’s lives started improving from last year.

In the coming year 2023, I and my Government will continue to work for further improving the social and economic growth of every individual in the State.

My prime objective is to see a smile on all your faces. It is for that reason that I am holding the post of Chief Minister as a great responsibility.

In the last one year, our State Government has recorded remarkable achievements. There is no need to list out those achievements, because as a beneficiary you know all those things.

Immediately after taking over the power, I said I would like to serve to the satisfaction of not only those who voted for me but also for those who had not voted for me. That is how I am functioning.

I felt your love and affection in all the functions I attended last year, whether they were the Government functions or otherwise. I accept your appreciation with humility; your appreciation encourages me to work more vigorously.

Last Year, the India Today magazine selected me as the Number One Chief Minister in the country. At that time I said that my aim was that Tamil Nadu should become the number one State in India. We served by keeping that in our mind.

As a result, Tamil Nadu also qualified as number one in the country. Last week it was announced that out of 12 indices, Tamil Nadu was number one in 9 indices. This was due to the hard work of the people belonging to the DMK Government.

This achievement is possible due to our planned work every day.

Every day I work relentlessly for the people.

In the last one year alone, I participated in more than 640 functions. Of these,more than 550 functions were Government functions and the remaining 90 functions were party functions. In total, I travelled more than 8,500 km in the last one year.

More than 3.74 lakh people benefited through direct assistance. These people benefited due to distribution of welfare measures at functions held in various districts in the State.

In the last one year, we provided direct welfare assistance to more than one crore people.

Under the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' Scheme, more than one crore people have benefited.

About 2.19 crore people are to get the Pongal Gift of Rs. 1,000 along with a gift hamper of rice, sugar and a sugarcane.

About 36 lakh women passengers benefited under the no-fare for women in Government Transport Corporation buses scheme.

This Government has been functioning with the good wishes of people, who are getting benefits under various schemes.

In the coming year 2023, we are going to implement many new schemes.

Many new schemes, for Government employees, teachers, farmers, students, women, differently–abled persons and those in the fringe of the society are to come in the new year.

The aim of the Dravidian Model Government is to make the State the forerunner in education, employment opportunities, skill development, industrial growth and in inclusive social growth. For achieving that aim, I shall function by dedicating myself to achieving these goals. In this, I seek the co-operation of the people of Tamil Nadu.

The people of the State should co-operate with the Government in making the State a region of social justice and secularism.

We should never give space to caste and communal forces who try to divide us on the basis of caste and religion. We should live together with the feeling that we are Tamils and on the basis of language and race. The State will be the best State in the country, only if it is a responsive State.

The present generation should concentrate on education, education and education. You should dream to achieve lofty ideals. For realizing the dream, you should work hard. By succeeding in your attempt, you should bring pride not only to yourself but to your parents also. It is the aim of the 'Naan Mudhalvan' Scheme.

You should not succumb to habits that divert you from your studies. I appeal to the younger generation not to get addicted to drugs.

We can create a matchless State only through the younger generation.

Poet Bharathidasan used to say that one should go beyond the welfare of self, wife and family. One should contribute to the development of society along with one's own welfare. There is no greater joy other than contributing to a public cause. I hope that the coming year will also be like the previous year.

Let the New Year come and give us new life.

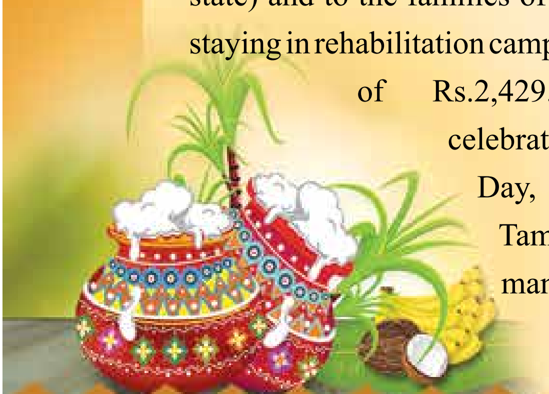
Once again, I extend my warm New Year greetings to all people.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** inaugurated the scheme of distributing Pongal gift hampers - 09.01.2023.

Hon'ble Chief Minister distributes Pongal gift hampers, free dhotis and sarees

Thai Pongal is celebrated as an auspicious day to thank and offer respects to farmers, hailed by Ayyan Thiruvalluvar as the pivot of humanity, as well as the sun and cattle that help them in their task. The Thai Pongal day is also the golden day in which the greatness and oneness of the Tamil race is made known to the world.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** had announced that a gift hamper of a 1 kg raw rice, 1 kg sugar, 1 sugarcane and cash of Rs.1,000 would be given to 2,19,33,342 families (rice card holders in the state) and to the families of Sri Lankan Tamils staying in rehabilitation camps, at an expenditure of Rs.2,429.05 crore, for celebrating Thai Pongal Day, the Festival of Tamils, in an excellent manner.



Also, the Government of Tamil Nadu has allotted Rs. 487.92 crore for implementing the scheme of free distribution of dhoti and saree in connection with the Pongal festival. Besides benefiting the poor and marginalized people, the scheme provides employment opportunities to those engaged in handloom and power loom industries.

To mark the inauguration of the distribution of gift hampers and free dhoti and saree, the Hon'ble Chief Minister presented them to rice card holders at a fair price shop at Sathya Nagar, Beach Road, Chennai on 09.01.2023.

To avert overcrowding at fair price shops for getting the gift hampers, tokens have been distributed to the eligible persons, mentioning the day and time for them to collect the gift. They are requested to comply.

‘Hon’ble Chief Minister has led State on development path through his untiring efforts’

Speech delivered
by the Hon’ble Governor
of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. R.N. Ravi
in the first session of the
Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly
for the year 2023,
on 09.01.2023.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly,

Vanakkam.

It is my immense pleasure to address the first session of the Legislative Assembly for the calendar year 2023 in this August House. I extend my warm greetings for the New Year and Tamil festival of Pongal to the people of Tamil Nadu and to all Members of this House. I wholeheartedly wish that this year brings greater happiness, prosperity and growth to our State.

- In the last 50 years, Tamil Nadu has grown significantly in multiple sectors to become a pioneering State in the country. During the 1960s, Tamil Nadu was lagging behind in social, economic, educational and health indicators when compared to other big States. However, today, it stands tall as a leader among all States. This is primarily due to the model of good governance built on the pillars of social justice, equality, self-respect and rational thinking. As a result of the development model aimed at inclusive growth, Tamil Nadu has scored 63.3 marks and ranks first among the large States in the ‘Social Progress Index’ recently released by the

Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council based on the study of development status of States. This Government will continue to march with vigour on the path of this Dravidian Model of development which has ensured the welfare and empowerment of suppressed, marginalized and backward sections of the society.

• In the last year and a half, our Hon'ble Chief Minister has led the Government on this development path through his untiring efforts and diligence. As a result, Tamil Nadu has been adjudged the best performing big State in India Today's recent 'State of the States' survey. This award is a testimony to the dynamic leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Dravidian Model of development, which is founded on the tenets of social justice and inclusive growth.

• For people of Tamil Nadu to celebrate Pongal in a festive manner, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the distribution of Rs.1,000 as cash assistance, 1 kg raw rice, 1 kg sugar and 1 sugarcane to each of the 2.19 crore rice card holders in the State at a total cost of Rs.2,429 crore. The distribution has been inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister today. I am confident that this will help the people of the State to celebrate Pongal, which is an integral part of Tamil society, with joy and gaiety.

• This Government's deft management of Mandous cyclone and North-East monsoon minimized damages in Chennai city to a great extent. In particular, construction of stormwater drains for a length of 261 km and other flood mitigation projects worth Rs.1,335 crore in Chennai city and peri-urban areas were sanctioned by this Government, and of these, 209 km of drain works were completed well before the onset of monsoon. Further, construction of 360 km of high-priority drains in Kosasthalaiyar basin was completed on a war footing. As a result, major areas of the core city which were severely flooded last year witnessed minimal stagnation during this monsoon. The traffic disruption caused by heavy rains was largely controlled and the city was quickly restored to normalcy. I convey my appreciation to this Government for its exemplary and effective management of the Mandous cyclone and North-East monsoon rains.

• This Government, which functions on Muthamizharignar Kalaignar's philosophy of "Though we may fall, Tamil should flourish", is taking all steps to protect the rightful place of Tamil language.

• Regarding the use of official language, this House has already passed a resolution against steps that are detrimental to the interests of all State languages including Tamil. This Government will continue to urge that all State languages should be accorded the official language status.

• Several States including Tamil Nadu had joined the GST regime, foregoing their fiscal autonomy on the assurance that their revenues will be protected. However, the anticipated revenues were not realized due to the drastic fall in revenues during the Covid pandemic. In such a scenario, the GST compensation regime

has come to an end on 30.06.2022. Since the revenues of States are yet to fully recover from the impact of pandemic, this Government urges the Union Government to further extend the GST compensation period by at least two more years.

• This Government gives utmost importance to the prompt redressal of public grievances, in line with its commitment to providing good governance. In the current year, under the 'Mudhalvarin Mugavari' scheme, out of 17.70 lakh petitions received so far, more than 16.28 lakh petitions have been disposed. In order to ensure satisfactory resolution of these petitions, a monitoring unit has been established.

• In order to provide opportunities to the global Tamil diaspora to learn Tamil language and preserve Tamil culture, the Government has established 'Tamil Parappurai Kazhagam'. The Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Board has been set up to act as a bridge between Non-Resident Tamils and their motherland, and to protect their interests. As a part of these initiatives, this Government has declared January 12 as 'Non-Resident Tamils Day', which is being celebrated every year.

• Due to the economic crisis and resultant food shortage in Sri Lanka, the Government of Tamil Nadu extended humanitarian assistance to Sri Lankans and sent rice, milk powder and life-saving medicines worth Rs.174 crore. The aid extended by Government of Tamil Nadu in these trying times has been widely appreciated. Due to the economic crisis, 216 Sri Lankan Tamils have come to Tamil Nadu and have been accommodated in camps, where they are being provided with food, clothing and basic amenities.

• This Government accords highest priority to maintenance of law and order in the State and is taking all necessary measures to ensure that the State continues to be a haven of peace and tranquility, free from any form of violence. With utmost concern for the future of our youth, the Hon'ble Chief Minister is determined to crack down on the distribution and consumption of drugs and narcotic substances with an iron hand. This Government is continuously taking measures to prevent drug smuggling including stringent enforcement of law and awareness creation among people.

• To provide people with qualitative and consistent service delivery, this Government has embarked on an initiative 'Namma Pagudhi Namma Nyaya Vilai Kadai' to modernize Public Distribution Shops. So far, 4,455 shops have been given a facelift.

• As a result of this Government's proactive planning and efforts in desilting waterways and canals, coupled with a favourable monsoon, Mettur dam was opened 19 days ahead of the scheduled time for Kuruvai cultivation. Further, this Government has provided Kuruvai package worth Rs.61.12 crore to farmers. As a result, a record 5.28 lakh acres was brought under Kuruvai paddy cultivation in the Cauvery delta region, and so far, 36.20 lakh acres have been brought under Samba cultivation throughout the State.

Incentive for Health Workers

• This Government has announced an increase in procurement price of cow and buffalo milk by Rs.3 per litre without affecting the interests of the consumers. This has benefitted 4.20 lakh milk producers in the State.

• This Government accords highest priority for the welfare of fishermen and is proactively undertaking several development schemes. Construction of 5 new fishing harbours and improvement works in existing 3 fishing harbours at a total cost of Rs.982.30 crore are in progress. This Government is committed to protect the fishing rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen in its traditional waters. In this year alone, 232 Tamil Nadu fishermen apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy were released after unstinting efforts of this Government. Till date, 10 fishermen have not been released and 106 fishing boats continue to be under the custody of the Sri Lankan Government. This Government will continue to urge that necessary steps be taken to restrain Sri Lankan Navy from apprehending our fishermen and to ensure early release of fishing boats and to find a permanent solution to these issues.

• Tamil Nadu has emerged as the forerunner in climate change mitigation in the Country. In order to provide suitable policy directives on issues related to climate change, the Tamil Nadu Governing Council on Climate Change has been constituted with international experts, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Further, to strengthen the State's efforts in climate change adaptation and mitigation, a Climate Summit was conducted by this Government in Chennai on 8th and 9th December, 2022. In a pioneering effort, this Government set up a 'Green Climate Fund' with a fund size of Rs.1,000 crore to support large projects to tackle climate change.

• Not limiting itself to only welfare of human beings, this Government upholds the age old Tamil culture of caring and living in harmony with nature and all living beings. In this regard, this Government has notified two bird sanctuaries at Kazhuveli and Nanjarayankulam and an elephant reserve at Agathiyarmalai. In an exemplary initiative, the Government has notified India's first ever Slender Loris Sanctuary in Dindigul and Karur Districts and Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay. The Government is taking steps to protect the critically endangered State animal Nilgiri Tahr and has sanctioned 'Project Nilgiri Tahr', at a cost of Rs.25.14 crore. Under the Wetland Mission, Tamil Nadu has successfully obtained accreditation for 13 new Ramsar sites, the highest in the country.

• This Government is committed to strongly asserting its rights on inter-state river disputes, while maintaining friendly relations with neighbouring states. This Government will not permit any act that would be detrimental to the farmers of Tamil Nadu. The Government is taking all necessary steps to prevent the construction of Mekadatu dam. The reservoir level in Mullai Periyar dam is presently at

142 feet and the Government is taking all efforts to further increase it. This Government urges that a Water Disputes Tribunal may be constituted at the earliest as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, on the issue of unauthorized diversion of water from Pennaiyar river by Karnataka.

- With the objective of ensuring water security in the State, this Government has been expeditiously implementing 6 large schemes at a total cost of Rs.1,334.10 crore. As a result, 2.59 Tmc.ft. of storage capacity will be added and 6.92 Tmc.ft. of storage will be reclaimed. Due to constant monitoring by this Government, the long pending projects, Thamirabarani–Karumeniyar-Nambiyar and Athikadavu - Avinashi, are nearing completion.

- Tamil Nadu continues to be a top performer in various health indicators in the country. It has substantially reduced the Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Ratio, and has already achieved the Sustainable Development Goals for the year 2030 in this respect.

- To address the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases, 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' scheme was launched by this Government to provide free home-based health care services at people's doorsteps. So far, 1.01 crore people have availed services in the comfort of their homes, under this programme.

- This Government had launched a noble scheme 'Innuyir Kaappom Nammai Kaakkum 48', a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, to provide free emergency medical care to all during the first 48 hours of an accident occurring in Tamil Nadu. Under this scheme, so far, 1.35 lakh accident victims have availed free-of-cost treatment worth Rs.120.58 crore in 679 hospitals across the State. As a result, countless precious lives have been saved.

- Recently, few countries have witnessed a spurt in Covid cases due to a new variant of Omicron virus. This Government which successfully handled the second and third waves of COVID pandemic, has set up adequate health infrastructure in the State and has taken all precautionary measures to tackle future challenges.

- Considering that the NEET exam system is highly disadvantageous to poor rural students and infringes on the rights of State Governments, a committee headed by Justice A.K. Rajan was constituted to study the issue. Based on the recommendations of the committee, a draft Bill to exempt medical students in Tamil Nadu from NEET exam was passed in the Assembly and sent for presidential assent. Since all clarifications requested regarding the Bill have been provided, this Government seeks expeditious approval of the same.

- To bridge learning losses that occurred due to COVID, this Government is implementing one of the largest learning outreach programmes 'Illam Thedi Kalvi', a path breaking initiative in the country. With the help of 2 lakh volunteers, this programme has benefitted over 34 lakh

students of classes 1 to 8. A study conducted by the world renowned research organization J-PAL has observed that "Illam Thedi Kalvi" has significantly contributed towards recovery of learning losses of up to 25 per cent in a span of 6 months. I am happy to inform that these results were presented at the 'Transforming Education Summit' held alongside the United Nations General Assembly meetings and were widely appreciated. To ensure that all primary school children are able to read with comprehension and perform basic arithmetic operations by 2025, this Government is implementing the 'Ennum Ezhuthum' programme.

• It is the avowed objective of this Government to ensure holistic development of every student through quality education. To achieve this objective, 'Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Scheme' has been launched to modernize Government schools and upgrade infrastructure over the next five years with an allocation of Rs.1,430 crore in the current year. In addition, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced that 7,200 new classrooms will be constructed with an outlay of Rs.1,050 crore.

• This Government has planned to upgrade the 45-year old Chennai Book fair to global standards, and will organize the Chennai International Book Fair for the first time from 16th to 18th January 2023 with participation from more than 25 countries. The objective of the book fair is to facilitate knowledge and copyright exchange between Tamil publishers and the global publishing industry. To realize Paavendhar's dream "When shall we herald the day, when the people of thousand languages will see the beauty of our mother Tamil, and the poems of my Tamil people", the Government of Tamil Nadu will provide a special grant to translate acclaimed Tamil literary works into international and other Indian languages.

• This Government is taking steps to provide quality higher education and create a highly qualified and skilled human resource that would fulfill the needs of a fast-growing nation. To encourage girl students to pursue higher education, this Government has launched a landmark scheme, Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Ninaivu 'Pudhumai Pen Thittam'. Under this scheme, Rs.1,000 is provided every month as cash assistance to all girl students pursuing higher education, who have studied in Government schools from 6th to 12th standard. In the current academic year, 1,28,780 girl students have benefitted through this scheme and this number is expected to cross 2 lakh before the end of this financial year. As a result of this scheme, the enrolment of girl students from Government schools in colleges has increased considerably during the current academic year as compared to the previous academic year.

• To meet the needs of industry, new courses have been introduced in polytechnic colleges. Further, this Government has begun women-friendly diploma courses to increase their employment opportunities. Civil and Mechanical engineering diploma courses are

being imparted in Tamil medium from the current academic year.

• For the first time in the country, this Government has successfully conducted the "International Chess Olympiad" in Chennai, which was attended by around 1,800 sports persons and delegates from over 180 nations. The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The meticulous and efficient organization of the event by the Government was lauded by one and all. I appreciate the Government of Tamil Nadu for having spectacularly conducted this international event in such a short span of time, much to the acclaim and admiration of the world.

• The 'Chief Minister's Cup' has been announced by the Government to promote sporting events across the State. In these competitions, school and college students, differently-abled persons, Government servants and public in 5 categories, comprising both men and women, will take part in various sports competitions including Athletics, Football, Kabaddi and Silambam. These competitions will be held throughout the State.

• A global technology and innovation summit, 'UMAGINE' will be held for the first time in Chennai in March 2023. It will bring together tech companies, investors, academia and policy makers on a single platform, and will provide new vigour and fillip to the technology industry.

• The Noon Meal Scheme which was introduced by the Justice Party in 1920 in Chennai Corporation has been expanded over a period of time and has today become a model for the entire country. It has been instrumental in ensuring enrolment and retention of large number of students in schools. Despite having aspirations to learn, many students are unable to concentrate in studies as they come hungry to schools in the morning without eating breakfast. To address this problem, the 'Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme' has been launched, which adds a new dimension to the Noon Meal Scheme. In the first phase, this scheme is being implemented in 1,545 Government primary schools benefitting 1.14 lakh students daily. I firmly believe that this scheme will also be a model for the entire nation, similar to the Noon Meal Scheme.

• The Hon'ble Chief Minister has set the goal of 1 trillion dollar economy by the year 2030 with the objective of bringing living standards of people on par with developed countries and making Tamil Nadu the best State across sectors. As a result of several investment conclaves and global outreach activities undertaken by this Government since July 2021, 207 MoUs have been signed with a cumulative investment commitment of Rs.2,23,210 crore and employment opportunities to 3,44,150 persons. It is notable that Tamil Nadu has attracted Foreign Direct Investment worth Rs.28,232 crore during this period.

• This Government has released several sectoral policies such as the Tamil Nadu Life Sciences Promotion Policy, Tamil Nadu Research and Development Policy, Tamil Nadu Footwear and Leather Policy and Tamil Nadu

House allotment order to beneficiary

Aerospace and Defence Industrial Policy in 2022. Further, policies to promote Ethanol blending, Green Hydrogen and E-vehicles will be released shortly.

- For creating an enabling ecosystem for IT companies to set up in towns other than Chennai, mini TIDEL parks are being established in 7 locations. Further, the State's third TIDEL park will be constructed in Madurai at an estimated cost of Rs.600 crore.

- The State Government has begun preparatory works for setting up a greenfield international airport at Parandur in Kancheepuram District. This will help cater to the growing demand of air traffic, improve livelihood of the locals and further economic development of the State.

- The MSME Sector, which had been severely affected during Covid has seen a remarkable recovery owing to the multipronged interventions of the Government. There has been an increase in bank credit to MSMEs by 20 per cent and in the number of loan accounts by over 19 per cent in the first half of this financial year. After this Government assumed office, over 16,000 self-employment projects worth Rs.2,344 crore have been provided assistance. In addition, the Government has opened 5 new industrial estates for MSMEs in the current year.

- The Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (StartupTN) has created a conducive ecosystem for startups in the State. The number of registered startups in the State has doubled since May 2021. Further, as a first in the country, a special fund of Rs.30 crore has been sanctioned to support SC/ST startups and this has ensured inclusivity in the State's startup ecosystem.

- With a view to upgrade skills and qualifications of our youth to international standards, this Government has launched the 'Naan Mudhalvan' initiative. To bridge the gap in academia-industry linkage, students are being offered industry relevant employability-oriented courses and internship programs. As part of this unique initiative, so far, 3 lakh students from engineering colleges have undergone these courses and another 4.5 lakh students from Arts & Science colleges will also be benefitted. The Scheme aims to ensure that students secure employment commensurate with their educational qualifications and are industry ready by the time they complete their studies.

- This Government is fully committed to deliver all basic amenities, improve infrastructure and alleviate poverty through livelihood promotion schemes in rural areas. The 'Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam' (AGAMT) has been re-launched by this Government to ensure equitable and holistic development of all rural habitations. In 2022-2023, works are being undertaken in 2,544 Panchayats at a total cost of Rs.1,155 crore.

- This Government has undertaken works to renovate Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapurams, which were established by Muthamizharignar Kalaignar with a lofty vision of fostering

Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapuram, Villupuram

communities to live together in unity and brotherhood. In the first phase, 149 Samathuvapurams have been taken up for renovation at a cost of Rs.190 crore and the works will be completed shortly.

• Similarly, to upgrade infrastructural amenities in urban areas, the Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced in the previous assembly session that a length of 20,990 km of urban roads will be developed at a cost of Rs.9,588 crore in the next four years. These works are in progress and will be completed at the earliest. The Government has sanctioned Rs.122 crore to dispose legacy waste through bio-mining, in an environment-friendly manner, and steps are being taken to reclaim waste land in 53 sites. So far, 369 acres of land have been reclaimed and are being transformed into green spaces. In order to fulfil the drinking water needs of citizens, this Government has sanctioned 103 combined water supply schemes at an estimated cost of Rs.15,734 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Further, works to ensure drinking water supply in urban areas have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.3,166 crore under AMRUT scheme. As a result, 1.64 crore people across the State will be benefitted.

• With a view to ensure planned urbanization in cities, 6 new Urban Development Authorities have been established. As Chennai and its surrounding areas are developing at a fast pace, it is essential to facilitate economic growth by ensuring provision of basic amenities in such urban agglomerations. Towards this end, this Government has announced a five-fold expansion of the Chennai metropolitan area to 5,904 sq.km.

• The Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) was constituted in 2010 for preparation of transportation plans and institutional co-ordination across agencies and departments involved in urban mobility in the Chennai metropolitan area. This Government has revived this body which had been defunct for several years. The first meeting of this Authority was conducted under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister last November. Initiatives such as integrated ticketing facility, comprehensive mobility plans and safe commutes to women and students will be undertaken.

• This Government recognises the importance of planned growth in surrounding areas of Chennai to ensure sustainability of the city's fast-paced growth. In this regard, Chennai Metropolitan Development Agency (CMDA) is embarking on a pioneering effort to create a new growth cluster through land pooling in Madampakkam, spanning 600 acres. Land will be pooled with the consent of land owners and classified based on their usage to promote planned development, while ensuring that the benefits of development are shared with the land owners. Majority of the land owners have given their willingness to participate in this project and the works will be completed shortly. In the next phase, a satellite town is proposed to be created near Mamallapuram along East Coast Road (ECR) following the same model. The upgradation of ECR as a four lane road coupled with development of this satellite

Maligaimedu, Gangaikonda cholapuram excavation site

town will anchor future growth of the Chennai metropolitan area.

• The Government is taking several steps to ensure quality and safe road networks across the State, which are imperative for economic growth. This Government has sanctioned 2,263 new works under the Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme at a cost of Rs.5,582 crore. New works for converting 131 causeways to High level bridges at a cost of Rs.560 crore, construction of by passes at a cost of Rs.142 crore and 8 railway over bridges at a cost of Rs.327 crore have been taken up in the current year.

• Self-Help Groups (SHG) have been instrumental in enhancing the status of women through livelihood improvement, skill development and self-reliance. In the current year, 42,845 new SHGs have been formed with 3.97 lakh women. So far, bank credit has been given to 3.07 lakh SHGs to the tune of Rs.16,949 crore in the current financial year. In order to improve the quality of SHG products and to provide an opportunity for marketing through e-commerce, brand 'MaThi' is being promoted by the Government.

• The revolutionary scheme of providing free travel to all women in ordinary town buses has led to not only economic upliftment but also social empowerment of women in the State. On a daily basis, 36 lakh trips are being undertaken by women. A study commissioned by the State Planning Commission has revealed that a woman passenger saves approximately Rs.888 per month as a result of this scheme.

• This Government is committed to replace the existing aged fleet with environment-friendly new green buses. Steps are being taken to procure 2,213 BS-VI buses and 500 electric buses with KfW funding and 1,000 BS-VI buses with State funding, and they will come into operation this year.

• The first phase of Chennai Metro Rail, covering 54 km in two corridors, is providing world-class metro rail services. The ridership has seen a steady increase after the Covid pandemic from an average of 1.76 lakh per day in June 2022 to 2.07 lakh per day in December 2022. The implementation of Phase II of this project for a length of 118.9 km at a total project cost of Rs.63,246 crore is progressing at a fast pace.

• This Government is harnessing the immense tourism potential of the State and has adopted an integrated strategy to propel tourism-based economy. Adventure and eco-camping sites are being set up in lesser known places to provide unique experiences to tourists and also create livelihood opportunities for the local populace.

• To commemorate the legacy of the inimitable great Tamil emperor, Rajaraja Cholan, the Government has announced that his birth anniversary, 'Sadhaya Vizha', will henceforth be celebrated as a Government function. Further, the Rajaraja Cholan Manimandapam will be renovated and embellished to showcase the glory of the Chola empire. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also announced that the birth

anniversary 'Aadi Thiruvaadhirai' of the mighty Tamil emperor Rajendra Cholan who reigned over vast swathes of the world, will hence forth be celebrated as a Government function.

• This Government has been taking proactive steps to preserve the rich heritage of archaeological and historical monuments in the State. Construction of a new world-class museum to showcase the artefacts found in Keezhadi excavations is nearing completion. Similarly, works are underway to set up the 'Porunai Museum' where excavated artefacts from Adichanallur, Korkai and Sivakalai will be displayed.

• This Government has been taking all necessary measures to safeguard temple lands and properties since it assumed office. So far, land and properties worth Rs.3,657 crore have been retrieved by the Government. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Tamil Nadu for this remarkable feat. During this year, the Government has commenced new works in 34 temples at a total cost of Rs.158 crore. Further, the Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation for works, as part of the Master Plan of Tiruchendur Temple, at an estimated cost of Rs.300 crore.

• This Government, true to its philosophy of furthering inclusive growth, is implementing various special schemes towards socio-economic and educational development of the marginalized and weaker sections of the society. Several works including construction of new hostels, smart classrooms and upgradation of residential schools for Adi Dravidar and Tribal students are being undertaken at a cost of Rs.425.40 crore.

• Works are in progress for the construction of 1,537 houses for particularly vulnerable homeless tribals throughout the State. To protect the rights of forest dwelling tribes, 2,293 tribal families have been given forest rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 during the last one and a half years.

• Tamil Nadu has adopted a unique reservation system to further social justice in the State and ensure advancement of socially backward classes. This Government is firm on continuing the present reservation policy in the State, as the 10 per cent quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) is against the ideals of social justice.

• To ensure economic development of socially backward sections in the society, steps are being taken to provide loans worth Rs.210 crore through the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Economic Development Corporation and Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation.

• The Government is firmly committed to safeguard the rights and interests of minorities in the State. The scheme of providing subsidy to pilgrims undertaking Haj and Jerusalem pilgrimage will be continued.

• The upliftment of weaker and marginalized sections of the society is an important objective of this Government. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered that pension for differently-abled persons will be

enhanced from Rs.1,000 to Rs.1,500 per month and maintenance allowance from Rs.1,500 to Rs.2,000 for severely affected persons with disabilities. The enhanced amounts are being provided at an annual additional cost of Rs.388 crore, benefitting 6.45 lakh differently-abled persons across the State.

• This Government has announced an increase in dearness allowance from 34 per cent to 38 per cent, effective from 01.01.2023, keeping in mind the welfare of Government employees. This will benefit around 16 lakh Government employees, teachers, pensioners and family pensioners. This will result in an additional expenditure of Rs.2,359 crore per annum. The process of receiving life certificate for pensioners has been digitized and made easier, allowing the pensioners to avail this service from the comfort of their homes.

Since this Government took office,

• In 2021, the State was severely affected by heavy flooding and rains, and normal life was disrupted. Based on the learnings of that disaster, this Government has effectively managed the recent cyclone and rains.

• The State's economy was in doldrums due to several reasons including Covid. Within the last year and a half, due to the economic reforms, welfare schemes and development works carried out by this Government, the economy has been revived and the State has been marching ahead in the path of development.

• Because of stellar management of law and order, Tamil Nadu continues to be a haven of peace. As a result, the State is attracting numerous foreign investments and is becoming a forerunner in all sectors.

• This Government is founded on the ideals of social justice, self-respect, inclusive growth, equality, women empowerment, secularism and compassion towards all. Following the principles and ideals of stalwarts like Thanthai Periyar, Annal Ambedkar, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Perarignar Anna and Muthamizharignar Kalaignar, this Government has been delivering the much-acclaimed Dravidian Model of governance to its people.

• This Government is tirelessly striving to achieve the twin objectives of welfare of Tamils and prosperity of Tamil Nadu. This Government will overcome any challenges in achieving this goal and successfully take Tamil Nadu on a high growth trajectory. This year, I hope that all of you will constructively participate in legislative debates, enact required legislations for the welfare of people and socio-economic growth of the State and extend co-operation to the Government's endeavor in achieving these objectives.

I once again wish everyone a very happy New Year and Pongal and conclude my address with the immortal words of Mahakavi Bharathiyar.

Vazhiya Senthamizh!

Vazhga Natramizhar!

Vazhiya Bharatha Mani Thiru Nadu!

‘Tamil Nadu has visibly risen higher as a result of the manifold schemes implemented by the Government’

Reply of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** to the debate on the motion of thanks to the Hon’ble Governor’s Address on 13.01.2023.

Hon’ble Speaker,

Long live Tamil Nadu which benefits from sea and mountain!

Long live Tamil Nadu that shines in war and art!

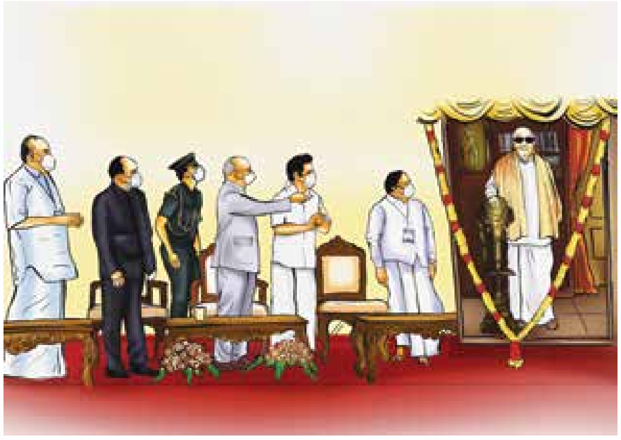
Long live Tamil Nadu that stands tall in strength and might!

Long live Tamil Nadu whose fame wins hearts and triumphs over the world!

With these words in praise of the Tamil Motherland, I convey my best wishes for 2023, as well as my greetings for Pongal, festival of the Tamils, to the Hon’ble Speaker and to the Hon’ble Members of the Legislature, and begin my speech.

I stand with dignity in a happy frame of mind in this August house, as my Government, dedicated to the protection of the Tamil Motherland, is successfully providing Dravidian Model of governance exhibiting the qualities of watchfulness, education and courage.

The Dravidian Model of governance, which includes the principles of social justice, self-respect, inclusive development, equality,



women's rights, religious harmony, and diversity, is being carried out with valour and prudence. Not only Tamil Nadu, but the entire Indian sub continent has realized this.

This Dravidian Model Government has been created to implement the principles and ideals of Thanthai Periyar, Annal Ambedkar, Karmaveerar Kamarajar, Perarignar Anna and Muthamizharignar Thalaivar Kalaignar.

Twenty months have passed since the take over of the present Government. We have accomplished Himalayan tasks within a short time. But there is a lot of work to be done. At the same time, we never felt the passage of these 20 months as our eyes were fixed on achieving the goal. Only the welfare of the people stood in our thoughts; that is how we have won the hearts of people.

The DMK is a party which is founded on the principles of Social Justice - Equality - Self-respect – love of Tamil - Rights of the race - State Autonomy. For the past one-and-a-half years, we have been running the Government with the same objective as we planned without any compromise.

The DMK Government is working on the 'Dravidian Model' for the excellence, development, prosperity and the rise of Tamil Nadu. It would be true to say that the Dravidian Model of governance is succeeding in this way rather than merely functioning.

We have planned that the development of Tamil Nadu should be based on the principle that everything should be possible for all. Industrial development - social change - educational development must happen simultaneously; We wanted everyone to benefit. Development should be economic as well as social.

Economy-Education-Society-Thought-Action.... All of these should grow together simultaneously. That is the development which Thanthai Periyar, Arignar Anna and Muthamizharignar Kalaignar wanted to see. That is the Dravidian Model of development! This is the unique development, which Tamil Nadu is now witnessing. I am proud to announce in this forum that the journey towards the pinnacle of such a Dravidian Model is a historic journey.

On the 9th, the Hon'ble Governor delivered the opening speech for the commencement of the year 2023-2024 in this Assembly. He gave his speech to this House, explaining the various aspects of the Government of Tamil Nadu, appreciating the ways in which the Government of Tamil Nadu is functioning and briefly announcing the measures for improvement that should be implemented in the future.

I don't want to politicize what happened that day by talking about it again. At the same time, this House and the Tamil people who elected me to this House know very well that I will work beyond my power to protect the dignity of the Government elected by the people, to

realize the strength of the Government given to us by the people, and to praise the values of this century-old legislature.

"Even if a thousand hands block it, the Sun does not disappear,

No one can command the waves of the sea to stop rising,

O Senthamizh, come forward to claim the crown after defeating your enemies,

Can the turkey prevent the peacock from dancing,

"Can the owls find fault with the singing of the cuckoo?

Will rabbits dare to confront the lion,

Can we support their improper actions?

This 'naadu' is akin to our life,

We are its rightful citizens?"

We will always remember these lines of the Dravidian poet Muthukkoothan, and stride ahead with majesty

That day was nothing but a day to prove that this Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin, the son of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar, is always working to protect the welfare of the Tamil people and the honor of Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of this Government to the Hon'ble Governor who came and addressed this Assembly in the first session of the year.

The people of Tamil Nadu know that every day in the calendar in the past one-and-a-half years is a good day for Tamil Nadu. They appreciate it for that. 'Run before the clock ticks', wrote the revolutionary poet Pavendar Bharathidasan. That's how we act, fast - and smart at the same time. When I say 'I' it's not just me; Not just the Cabinet; it includes all our legislators.

Looking back on my journeys after assuming office, I am astonished. I have participated in 655 programmes in the last one year alone. Even though a year has 365 days - I have attended two programmes a day. Out of which 551 programmes are Government programmes. In between, I was forced to take rest for a few days on doctor's advice, due to Corona. Had there not been such pitfalls, I would have attended 50 more programmes.

In total, in the last year alone, I have travelled more than 9,000 kilometres in the State and met people. They say I work every day. No, I work every second. I don't work just to be admired by people. It is my nature. There is nothing surprising in this. This is what our leader Kalaignar has taught us. The lessons I learned from him motivate me to work like this.

A 'dash board' is kept in my room. I am constantly monitoring the progress of each project every day. By knowing how well all the plans are moving every day, I trigger the Government. My only free time is during my sleep time. If the responsibility increases, rest also diminishes. The revolutionary leader Mao said, even if the tree likes to rest, the wind does not.' That's how more and more work comes in and keeps me active.

If I travelled nine thousand kilometres and met people and participated in festivals, do you know how many people benefited from it? More than 1.3 crore persons have been benefited through welfare assistance

provided directly to the people. That means the Government of Tamil Nadu has given personal assistance to one crore people. These are the people who have benefited from the welfare assistance provided in various districts across Tamil Nadu. Out of the total number of districts, welfare programmes have been organized in 28 districts. About 7,430 works valued at Rs. 3,050 crore have been completed. Foundation stones have been laid and works started for 13,428 new works. Its total value is Rs. 4,744 crore. As per the announcements issued since the Government took charge, works worth Rs.2 .57 crore are being carried out on behalf of all Government Departments across Tamil Nadu. Through this we can know how fast the Government is working.

Not only are the Chief Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Secretariat, functioning, but the whole of Tamil Nadu is functioning. We are making Tamil Nadu which has been stagnant for ten years, run forward. We are energising the worn out Tamil Nadu.

This Government has made various announcements since taking office. Namely, announcement in the Governor's speech Announcements – 75; By me under the Legislative Assembly Rule no. 110 – 67; Announcements made at District functions – 88; Announcements at the District Collectors' Conference – 5; Press release announcements – 154; Financial Statements – 254; Agricultural Financial Statements – 237; Notifications issued by Hon'ble Ministers during the budget demand requests – 2,424; and other Notifications – 42. A total of 3,346 notifications have been issued so far. Out of these, 86 per cent notifications have been implemented, that is, Government orders have been issued for 2,892 announcements. Out of these, 852 notifications have been implemented. 2,040 works are in progress. Actions are being taken by the departments concerned, to issue orders for 422 notifications. Comments on 32 notifications are under consideration by the Union Government. We have grown in the last year and a half because we have done what we promised and we have grown. This is the fact.

The statistics released by the Union Government about the development of Tamil Nadu are very descriptive. In the Social Progress Index published recently by the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Committee, Tamil Nadu ranked first among the largest states in India, by achieving 63.3 points. It's not me saying this, it's not the Government of Tamil Nadu that says this; This is what the Union Government is saying. It is not easy for a State like Tamil Nadu to come to the top among the big states in India. This is because of the strength, vitality and power of the inclusive Dravidian Model philosophy. Our aim is only one, the happiness of people. This is the one and only goal of the Dravidian Model of governance.

We see smiles on the faces of school children eating breakfast and on the faces of women travelling in free buses. This is the greatest achievement of this regime.

During the ten years of AIADMK Government, only 2.20 lakh free agricultural electricity connections were provided. But the present Government provided free agricultural power connections to 1 lakh 50 thousand farmers in a period of 15 months.

It is not just students who are in schools and colleges that our welfare schemes address. We also bring into schools and colleges those who are not able to come there.

A few weeks ago, a woman named Deeparani from Coimbatore spoke on the CM Helpline number in the 'Mudhalvarin Mugavari' programme. Many people call mostly to register their needs, demands and complaints. When asked, 'What is your complaint?', she said, "I did not call to complain, CM. I don't have a phone number, I called to thank the CM". "I am a vegetable Vendor. So I can't feed my child in the morning. My son is studying in fifth class. Through the breakfast scheme he gets breakfast every day and it is of good quality. That's why I want to thank the CM," said the mother with great admiration.

It is because of the appreciation and good wishes of such a large number of simple people that we are proud and working with motivation today. "Let us do as we are told; Let's talk about doing" - this is Kalaignar's slogan! In addition, if it is in the interest of the Tamil people, we will do even what we have not said. That's my motto.

Breakfast for students; Free power connections for farmers; International Chess Olympiad Tournament; Chief Minister in your constituency in all 234 constituencies; Urban Roads Development Project; Illam Thedi Kalvi Scheme; Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam; Naan Mudhalvan, Pudhumai Penn; Innuyir Kappom- Nammai Kaakkum 48; Tamil Nadu Olympic Gold Medal Search; Reconstruction of Samathuvapurams; revitalizing farmers' markets; Government Model Schools; Journalist Welfare Board; A dream home for writers; Ilakkiya Maamani Award; Kalaignar Ezhudhukol Award; Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Project; Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme; Investors' first destination is Tamil Nadu; Periyar - Social Justice Day Pledge; Ambedkar - Equality Day Pledge; Vallalar's birth anniversary, Kalaignar's Urban Development Project; Tamil Archanai in Temples, Priests from all castes; Book exhibitions in all districts; Recovery of encroached temple lands; 20 new Colleges of Arts and Sciences; New ITI Institutes; Police Commission; Kalloori Kanavu (College Dream); Employment camps; Tamil Parappurai Kazhagam; Tamil Nadu Green Mission; Small-medium innovative start ups; Sirpi scheme to develop responsible students; drug eradication programme; Online Rummy Abolition Act; NEET Exemption Act; Adi Dravidar Tribal Commission; and Lawyer's Provident Fund increased to Rs.10 lakh. In the last one-and-a-half years, we have passed many laws regarding allotment of land for setting up courts. I have mentioned only a few schemes. If I were to tell you about all the schemes, I would have to list them all today. We can see the rise of Tamil Nadu through all these schemes and projects.

In the previous year, ahead of the Governor's speech, I was hailed as the best Chief Minister of India in a poll published by the English weekly

'India Today'. Now that one year has passed, we have made Tamil Nadu qualify as the best state in India, in a poll published by the same 'India Today' English weekly before this year's Governor's speech. Tamil Nadu has progressed in various categories in performance among the states in India.

Hon'ble Speaker, the development of Tamil Nadu is clearly visible before our eyes. A lot of new industries have come up in Tamil Nadu during this last 15 months. A lot of new industries have been started in Tamil Nadu during this 20 month period. So far 207 MoUs have been signed for the start-up of industries. Through this, an investment of Rs.2,23,209 crore has been attracted and employment opportunity has been created for 3 lakh 44 thousand 150 persons directly and indirectly.

Out of the above 207 industrial companies, 111 companies have been started so far and an investment of Rs.13,726 crore has been received. 15,529 persons have got employment. Investors come from various states and start companies in Tamil Nadu. Come here from different countries to start business. In that way, Tamil Nadu is a state that attracts entrepreneurs and companies. Our Tamil Nadu has moved from 14th to 3rd place in the list of best states to start a business.

Tamil Nadu has been recognized as a "Leader" for the best innovation activities of the Government and has advanced several steps in the ranking list published by "Start Up India" recently. According to data published at the end of 2021-2022, Tamil Nadu has moved up to the fourth position after Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai in terms of raising venture capital for start-up companies. Industrial development is the face and address of overall development of the state.

Tamil Nadu's share of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 9.22 percent; Tamil Nadu's contribution to India's total exports is 8.4 percent; The textile sector exports accounted for 19.4 percent; Cars accounted for 32.5 percent; leather exports 33 per cent! All these make Tamil Nadu the best state in India.

All India inflation is now high. However, inflation has come down only in Tamil Nadu. This is the statistics released recently by the Union Government. The purchasing power of the people of Tamil Nadu is increasing. The reason for this is that all sections of people have developed through social development programmes. In an article written in the famous English daily Business Line, it has been mentioned that the price of foodstuffs has decreased in Tamil Nadu. It noted that although fuel prices have increased, the free bus facility provided to women has compensated for it. It has indicated that women's transport has become less expensive.

"Tamil Nadu is a state that achieves excellent indices in education, health, social welfare schemes, employment and industrial development, so the inflation is decreasing,"

wrote the BBC and the Hindu newspaper (English edition). There is no doubt that Tamil Nadu will rise as a self-sufficient state if it continues at the same pace.

Hon'ble Speaker, the taxation rights and financial rights of the state Governments have already been taken away. The dependence on the Union Government for funds has increased in the last 8 years. There is a situation where funds have to be asked for and brought. The Union Government continues to insist that concessions will be given only if rates are increased. In such a situation, the Government should bear most of the burden so that the people of Tamil Nadu are not burdened, and the measures were taken in such a way that they did not affect the middle class. I also openly agree that getting new funding is the most important, big challenge ahead of us.

Hon'ble Speaker, even in such an environment, Government employees have been given various privileges since the formation of this regime. Government employees are well aware of the extent to which the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Government would act in the interest of Government employees. 10,338 new posts have been created by the Government in various departments in order to take the Government welfare programmes and various services to the people in a better manner.

From the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund, Rs. 98.45 crore, has been given as relief to the families of 409 frontline personnel who died on duty due to COVID infection. The Government has implemented the election manifesto promise of increasing the maternity leave from 9 months to 12 months for women Government employees with less than two children from 01.07.2021.

A bunch of people are spreading false rumours saying that we are anti-religious, and are not maintaining the temples properly. I have answered this many times. We are against communalism but not against religion. I repeat, we are only against communalism, not against religion. We are the enemies of those who use the faith of the people for their selfish interests; Believers are not enemies. The encroachments on the land/building/property owned by charitable institutions were removed and temple land worth Rs. 3,657. 48 crore including 3,150 acres of land was recovered during the period from 07.05.2021 to 31.10.2022. True devotees are praising this action. But the bogus impersonators are defaming the Government, as they are unable to tolerate its good name. Some people do not like doing such acts. Some people don't want all the temples to be illumined. That is why they are slandering us.

Allegations regarding law and order were made in this Assembly. If you want to make an allegation, you should make it with evidence. You should not charge without evidence. Have there been religious riots? Have there been caste riots? Tell me. Is there any firing on civilians? Have innocent lives been lost? People are well aware under whose regime the heart-wrenching Pollachi incident and Kodanadu murders and robberies, which are the height of mystery, took place. Were the criminals not arrested in the crime incidents that took place in our rule? Tell me. The Police Department is doing its duty well. What is the point of talking about crimes that have been dealt with.

This Government is taking all measures to effectively maintain law and order in the state. Tamil Nadu continues to be a haven of peace due

to the continuous actions of the Government. Because of this, business investors from various countries are looking towards Tamil Nadu and investing here. This Government will never allow religious, racist and extremist forces to grow in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu will continue to be a state free of any violence.

I thank Hon'ble Member Thiru. Cumbum N. Ramakrishnan of DMK, who moved the resolution for thanking the Governor and Hon'ble Member Thiru.K Sundar (DMK), who seconded it. Similarly, I thank the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Hon'ble Member Thiru. K.P.Munusamy and Hon'ble Member Thiru. Natham. R. Viswanathan of the AIADMK, and Hon'ble Member Thiru. K. Selvaperunthagai and Hon'ble Member Thiru. J.G. Prince of Congress, Hon'ble Congress Party Leader Thiru. G.K.Mani of the PMK, Thiru. Nainar Nagendran Hon'ble Party leader of BJP, Thiru. Sinthanai Selvan Hon'ble leader of Viduthalai Siruthaigal and Thiru. T.Ramachandran Hon'ble Party leader of CPI, and Thiru. M.Chinnadurai Hon'ble leader of CPI (M) Party, Dr.Sathan Thirumalai Kumar Hon'ble leader of MDMK Party, Dr. M.H. Jawahirullah Hon'ble leader of Manitha Neya Makkal Katchi, Thiru. E.R.Eswaran Hon'ble leader of Kongunadu Makkal Desiya Katchi, and Thiru. Velmurugan Hon'ble leader of Tamilar Vazhvurimai Katchi, for their speeches.

In the assembly meeting held yesterday, Hon'ble Member Dr. Jawahirullah made a request that the amount of grant called Major Repair Grant (MRG) given to mosques for repair works should be increased. During the previous AIADMK regime, the subsidy was Rs.5 crore, which was increased to Rs.6 crore last year by the present Government. Now, I am happy to inform that this has been further increased to Rs.10 crore from the coming financial year.

Hon'ble Member Thiru. Velmurugan spoke passionately and in detail about the involvement of people from northern states, in criminal activities in Tamil Nadu. In the last two years, 85 cases have been registered against northerners involved in crimes like murder and robbery. Of these, 25 were murder cases; 33 persons have been arrested in 24 cases. Apart from this, every police station collects details of northern state labourers staying and working in Tamil Nadu. The information is obtained from the HR agencies that employ them in Tamil Nadu. We get information and help from the police of the respective states about the northerners involved in criminal activities and about suspects among them, and take further action. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member that strict action is being taken against the workers from northern states involved in illegal and criminal activities.

Likewise, Thiru. G.K. Mani, Hon'ble leader of PMK in the Assembly wanted to make Tamil a compulsory subject in Tamil Nadu. Yesterday, Minister Ponmudi also gave an explanation in this regard. Similarly, Hon'ble Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi has also given an explanation. So, I don't need to talk much about it. However, let me summarize. In order to create a situation whereby it is not possible to pass from schools in Tamil Nadu without studying the Tamil language, Dr.Kalaignar enacted the Tamil Language Learning Act on 13.06.2006, making Tamil language compulsory from class 1 to class 10, and made the most important achievement in the history of Tamil language.

This Government will continue to monitor the teaching of Tamil in all schools in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Parappurai Kazhagam has been established to enable Tamils living abroad and the children of Tamils who may live in other states to learn their mother tongue.

The Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation has brought out 108 new books on various topics and children's books for students to use, besides 5 important international medical books for students studying medicine in Tamil Nadu.

I am proud to inform the Hon'ble members that the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Government will continue its Tamil protection work by taking new initiatives and implementing them smoothly.

Next, Thiru. Sinthanai Selvan, Hon'ble Member of Viduthalai Chiruthaigal made a demand that one-fifth share as implemented in panchayats under the 'Namakku Naame' scheme, should be given to municipalities in SC residential areas. His demand is accepted. I am informed that his request will be fulfilled not only in municipalities but also in corporation areas.

Similarly, he mentioned in his speech that the beneficiaries of house site pattas issued to the public at various times during the previous regime could not build houses and settle down as the plots were found on sloping and uneven ground and without road facilities. I inform the Hon'ble Member and this House that all the details of the places that are not suitable for building houses and settling in the land given to the beneficiaries will be collected district-wise, and after knowing which places are suitable for levelling and carrying out development works, a good decision will be taken about it immediately.

Similarly, Thiru. Nainar Nagendran, Hon'ble Member of the House and leader of the Bharatiya Janata Legislature Party, lauded the 'Chief Minister in your constituency' scheme. He is not in the House now; I hope he reads in the newspapers that I thanked him. I would like to place some facts on record in this House with regard to the scheme. I would also like to share some facts.

On 07.05.2022, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule No. 110 announced Rs.1,000 crore under the 'Chief Minister in Your Constituency' scheme. To begin with, I had been requesting the Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assembly to forward several important demands which had not been fulfilled in their constituencies to their respective District Collectors. So far, demand lists have been received from 233 legislators. Hon'ble members should note well that only one was not there. Out of a total of 234 members, 233 legislators responded. I don't want to say who did not respond; the member who did not knows about it. So far, 1,483 demands have

been received from 233 legislators. I am happy to inform this House that all these have been classified, department-wise evaluations made, priority tasks selected, placed before the high-level committee, and administrative approval given in the coming financial year. The tasks will be completed gradually.

Yesterday, when the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition spoke, he made the charge that the DMK has taken more loans than the AIADMK. This is completely wrong information. In the last year of the AIADMK regime, 2020-2021, a net borrowing of Rs. 83,275 crore was received. After we came to power, in spite of severe financial crisis and implementation of various new public welfare schemes, due to my efficient management, we have reduced the net debt to Rs. 79,303 crore in 2021-2022. That is, I would like to point out that the borrowing is less than the previous year by about Rs. 4,000 crore.

Similarly, he has criticized the committees set up by this Government. He also asked for the details of the groups. I would like to mention the activities of some groups. I would like to record the activities of a few of the committees set up by this Government.

In Chennai, a retired Civil Service Officer was appointed to investigate flood prevention and suggest solutions to the Government. A committee was formed under the leadership of Thiru Thiruppugazh, I.A.S. People are seeing its benefits now. It was also discussed in this House. I don't want to go into the details.

Unlike in the past rainy seasons when Chennai city suffered due to flooding during the rainy season, in 2022, rain water stagnation has been completely prevented. Similarly, an Economic Advisory Council to develop the economy of Tamil Nadu, was constituted for me. This group continues to advise the Government on ways and reforms to achieve our state's 1 trillion dollar economic goal. It is on this basis that economic development activities are being carried out.

Next, in order to prevent the spread of Corona and control it, a committee was formed under the chairmanship of former IAS officer, Thiru. Poornalingam. Everyone knows that Tamil Nadu took the lead in controlling the Corona infection in India.

A committee was formed under the leadership of retired Judge Thiru. A.K.Rajan. The NEET Exemption Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly and submitted to the Hon'ble Governor for assent and then to the Hon'ble President.

Next, to ban online rummy, a committee was formed under the chairmanship of retired Judge, Thiru.K. Chandru. The bill was passed in this Legislative Assembly and has now been submitted to the Hon'ble Governor for his assent.

A committee of experts was formed with the aim of renovating all the ancient temples without spoiling their heritage characteristics.

The Committee has recommended 3,720 temples for renovation. I gave these details as examples.

In this way, all the other committees formed by this Government are functioning in an excellent manner. I would like to state in this House that by accepting the suggestions given to the Government from time to time, the purpose of these committees has been fulfilled and the interests of the people of Tamil Nadu are being protected.

For the last two days I have consulted with the Ministers and the officials concerned regarding the demands made by members in the House. Accordingly, I would now like to make some announcements.

Firstly, the Government will implement a new scheme called 'Chief Minister Road Development Programme' to strengthen and upgrade major panchayat union roads based on the Rural Roads Development Scheme. Initially, Panchayat union roads to a length of 10,000 km will be upgraded at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,000 crore in the next 2 years.

Second, the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme. It was launched on 15.09.2022 at Madurai. Implemented as a pilot initiative for primary school children from class 1 to 5, in the first phase of the scheme, 1.14 lakh students studying in 1,545 Government schools are being served breakfast in their schools. This program is highly appreciated by most of the public, parents, teachers and students and they welcome it with joy. And as a result of this initiative, the attendance of students in schools has increased greatly. Based on this, I am happy to announce that the Government has decided to extend this scheme to children studying from 1st to 5th standard in all Government schools in the state in the year 2023-2024.

Third, is an important notice about the World Investors Conference. Tamil Nadu is one of the leading states in India in terms of economic and industrial development. Tamil Nadu is the second largest state economically in India. To attract massive investments, provide employment to lakhs of Tamil Nadu youth and strengthen the state economy, I have set a target of making Tamil Nadu a USD 1 trillion economy by 2030. The Government is taking various measures to achieve it. As a journey towards this goal, several investor conferences were held in places including Dubai.

Also, a high-level delegation led by the Hon'ble Minister of Industries department, visited countries like Germany, the USA, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan to attract global investments. The representatives of the Government of Tamil Nadu participated in the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum 2022 held at Davos, Switzerland.

In order to attract more investments to our state, create jobs and expand the economy, I am

happy to announce that the 'World Investors Conference' will be held at Chennai on 10th and 11th of January 2024 with the participation of more than 100 countries.

Hon'ble Speaker, any Government needs a goal. Only by setting a goal can we achieve that ideal. Our target is USD 1 trillion economic growth by 2030. We are moving towards that goal. You should not treat this as a mere financial measure. I request you to look at this along with the development of the people. I have also been saying that the Dravidian Model should be developed to include everything, everyone, all sectors and all districts. My opinion is that economic growth should not be limited to export and import metrics.

I believe that the development of the state of Tamil Nadu should include development in the social, political, economic, life-style and cultural spheres. We are making plans for that. We are bringing many new startups to Tamil Nadu. We are giving priority to innovative industries. We promote small, micro and medium enterprises. New industrial estates have been launched. We create jobs. We are skilling the youth for the jobs. We empower women to become self-reliant. We focus on their skill development. In schools and colleges, we are nurturing students to be independent through the 'Naan Mudhalvan' program. This is the new Tamil Nadu! The Intellectual Tamil Nadu! A mighty, prosperous Tamil Nadu!! We are turning the youth power of Tamil Nadu into an intellectual and dynamic force; we are linking it with industrial development. We are enhancing the development of the state by harnessing the enormous power of human potential. This is the peculiarity of the Dravidian Model of Government.

Every day we are working to turn the present into a golden age. Self-doubt is first step to defeat. The determination that one can achieve is the first step to success. This is the lesson taught to us by the leader of the Tamil race, Kalaignar. The journey towards such success continues. Our future planning will certainly incorporate the good advice given to this Government by the Hon'ble Members. I think the basis of my success is being true to the people and acting conscientiously. It is because of the people that I came to this responsibility. I am true to the people. I work for them every day! A Tamil Nadu that holds its head high, A unique golden state. I promise you, that through the triumphant Dravidian Model of governance, it will be a Tamil Nadu that shows the way to the world.

Eleven Hon'ble members have moved 94 amendments to the motion of thanks. They have mentioned the works to be done in their constituency. They have been forwarded to the Ministers concerned for action. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble members to withdraw the amendments they have sought and wholeheartedly welcome this Governor's speech forgetting party lines and realizing the condition of the people.

I would like to conclude my speech by conveying my Tamilar Thirunaal Pongal greetings to the Hon'ble Speaker, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Hon'ble Deputy Leader of Opposition, Leaders of Alliance parties and all Assembly members. 'Long Live Tamil - May Tamil Nadu triumph'.

Nandri, Vanakkam !

‘Donate generously for Flag Day, show your gratitude to our armed forces’

Flag Day message of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin**- 06.12.2022.

Flag Day is a great, sacred day for us to remember the sacrifices of the personnel of the three forces, and to apportion a part of our savings for their welfare, for, forgetting home and hearth and holding only the love of the nation in their hearts, they perform a penance, as it were, for protecting India’s unity and sovereignty.

It is our great duty to provide a secure life to the families of soldiers who, nurturing and protecting the freedom we attained, undertake the incomparable task of driving away the nation’s enemies by staking their own lives as of no significance, and perform the grand task of safe-guarding all the regions of the country, subordinate all their thoughts and desires to the uniform they wear.

The donation that we make for Flag Day is the proof that the whole nation is there for ensuring the well-being of the families of soldiers. Our contributions for Flag Day will be useful to their families in many ways.

Tamil Nadu is always at the forefront in collecting huge sums on Flag Day. I request you to donate in a big way this year also to offer our respects and gratitude to their families.

Hon'ble Chief Minister reviews steps taken on petitions under Mudhalvarin Mugavari Department

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.M.K.Stalin**, reviewed the action taken on petitions received from the public by the Mudhalvarin Mugavari Department at the Secretariat on 02.12.2022.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, who gives utmost importance to resolving the grievances of the public, has formed a separate Department, known as Mudhalvarin Mugavari and kept it under his direct control. The Hon'ble Chief Minister visits the Chief Minister's separate cell and help desk and makes reviews by surprise visits. Apart from this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister directly contacts the employees and the petitioners and gets himself acquainted with the situation on the field.

Previously, the Chief Minister's separate cell received about 3 lakh petitions a year. But now, after the integration of all grievance redressal mechanisms, the cell receives about 15 lakh petitions and steps are being taken to find solutions for the grievances of the public swiftly.

Through this Mudhalvarin Mugavari Department, the Hon'ble Chief Minister regularly reviews action taken on the petitions received from the public by the department and on petitions received by him during his tour of various Districts.

As a new initiative, the Chief Minister's Help Desk and monitoring wing have been formed at the District Collectorates, where all petitions are subjected to reviews. They are all given quality appraisal. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed that the petitions for which solutions have not been found, should be subjected to second review and solutions should be found. All the petitions received by the Mudhalvarin Mugavari Department are classified based on their nature. The Hon'ble Chief Minister advised that steps should be taken to settle the grievances at the earliest.

To confirm whether solutions have actually been found for the petitions, the Hon'ble Chief Minister gets into contact directly with the petitioners through telephone and gets feedback from them. During his present visit, the Minister contacted a person named Ravi of the Cumbum Taluk of Theni District and confirmed whether his petition for old-age pension had been settled. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also contacted Tmt.Jayalakshmi of Gudiyatham Taluk of Vellore District and Tmt. S.Latha of Chennai and got the confirmation from them on whether their petitions for employees provident fund and educational grant respectively had been settled.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated the Deputy Police Commissioner of Musiri of Tiruchirappalli District and Special Deputy Collector of Sivagangai and Special Tahsildar of Polur in Tiruvannamalai District for their quick action in finding solutions to the public petitions. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also contacted the Assistant Commissioner of Coimbatore Corporation and the District Registrar of Chengalpattu District and gave them the necessary instructions.

Earlier also, the Hon'ble Chief Minister reviewed on 28.05.2021, 05.10.2021 and 26.07.2022, whether proper action had been taken on petitions received from the public.

Farmers get coconut saplings and pulse seeds, 20 mobile vegetable vans flagged off

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates initiatives for farmers welfare

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.M.K.Stalin** declared open the Agriculture Department's buildings and flagged off 20 mobile vegetable vans, at Secretariat on 07.12.2022.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin,** on behalf of the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, inaugurated newly constructed buildings for the Agriculture Department built at a cost of Rs.15.40 crore, distributed coconut saplings to beneficiaries, and under the Kalaignar's Integrated Farmers Development Programme, and handed over pulse seeds for pulse cultivation in paddy fallow lands. As per the announcement made in the Agriculture Budget, he handed over orders for issue of special incentive of Rs. 195 per tonne for sugarcane farmers, over and above the Union Government's Fair and Minimum Support Price (MSP) and also flagged off the 20 mobile vegetable vans, at the Secretariat, on 07.12.2022.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been announcing and implementing many welfare schemes for the farmers, including a separate budget for the Department. Following this,

Buildings for the Agri Marketing and Agri Business Development Department and Horticulture and Plantation Crops Departments,

on behalf of the Tamil Nadu State Agriculture Marketing Board and 3 new Uzhavar Sandhais were inaugurated, one each in NGO Colony in Tirunelveli District, in Vedachandur in Dindigul District and in Manachanallur in Tiruchi District, at a total cost of Rs1,35,90,000;

A 250 metric-tonne capacity godown at Poolavadi in Tiruppur District at a cost of Rs.50 lakh; an auction centre, at a cost of Rs. 75 lakh at the Regulated Market Complex in Tindivanam; an upgraded Regulated Market building, at a cost of Rs. 2.20 crore, at Veppur in Cuddalore District; and in Mayiladuthurai District, a 2,000- metric tonne capacity godown at the Regulated Market Complex at Sirkazhi, auction centre and office building, and auction centre at Kuthalam, at a total cost of Rs.5,85,50,00;

At the Tiruvarur Regulated Market, rest rooms, office buildings and a drying yard, all constructed at a total cost of Rs. 2.89 crore;

On behalf of the Horticulture and Plantation Crops Department, improvement of infrastructure at Horticulture Research and Training Centre, at Thali, in Krishnagiri District, at a total cost of Rs. 1.85 crore;

Totally, buildings constructed at a cost of Rs. 15 crore, 40 lakh and 70,000 on behalf of the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Distribution of coconut saplings to the farmers, under the Kalaignar's All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme:

For the all round development of agriculture and to attain self-sufficiency in all villages, the State Government has been implementing the All Villages Integrated Development Programme in coordination with the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

In the year 2022-2023, preliminary works have started under the programme in 3,204 villages with the allotment of Rs. 300 crore in the agriculture budget. As a part of it, Rs.11.49 crore, was allotted to 300 families in a village Panchayat. Under the scheme, each family in the village gets 2 coconut saplings, totalling 19.16 lakh saplings. The saplings are distributed free to farmers.

As a mark of inaugurating the scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over saplings

to 2 farmers, one each in Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu Districts.

In the 2022- 2023 Agriculture budget, Rs. 40 crore was allotted for providing subsidy of Rs. 400 per acre to farmers for cultivation of green pulses and black gram pulses in 10 lakh acres of paddy fallow lands to improve soil fertility and also enable farmers to get additional income at a lesser investment. Under the scheme, certified seeds are provided to farmers at 50 per cent subsidy. This scheme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. As a token of inaugurating the scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the subsidy amount to 2 farmers, one each in Chengalpattu and Thiruvallur Districts.

Special Incentive to Sugarcane farmers:

The Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare announced in the 2022-2023 Agri culture Budget that a special incentive of Rs. 195 per tonne for the crushing season of 2021-2022 will be given to the sugarcane farmers over and above the Fair and Remunerative price of Rs. 2,755 per tonne announced by the Union Government. As per the announcement, the State Government issued an order allotting Rs.199 crore for the scheme, for the special incentive.

As per the announcement, the State Government has deposited Rs. 2,950 per tonne (including the incentive amount of Rs.195), in the bank account of sugarcane farmers, attached to 2 public sector, 15 co-operative and 15 private sugar mills that supplied sugarcane for the crushing season 2021-2022.

The scheme will benefit about 1.21 lakh sugarcane farmers in the State. As a token of inaugurating the scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the orders for the Special Incentive Scheme to 2 sugarcane farmers in the State.

Twenty mobile fair price vegetable vans:

Under the scheme of providing farm vegetables to consumers at the doorstep in Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchi, Chengalpattu and Tiruppur Districts, the Hon'ble Chief Minister flagged off 20 mobile vegetable vans, costing Rs. 40 lakh from the Secretariat, on behalf of the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department.

Hon'ble Chief Minister unveils statue of Ki.Ra. famed for Karisal Kaattu literature

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** unveiled the statue of Tamil writer Ki.Rajanarayanan -02.12.2022.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin declared open through video conferencing, the life-size statue of pioneering writer of Karisal Kaattu literature, Thiru Ki.Rajanarayanan, and a memorial for the writer, constructed at a cost of Rs.1,50,70,000 crore, at Kovilpatti in Thoothukudi District, on behalf of the Tamil Development and Information Department, from the Secretariat on 02.12.2022.

Writer Ki.Rajanarayanan, popularly known as Ki. Ra.was born on 16.09.1922 to the couple Thiru.Sri Krishna Ramanujam and Tmt. Lakshmi Ammal, at Idaiseval Village near Kovilpatti in Thoothukudi District. A school drop out, Ki.Rajanarayanan wrote short stories, usually centered around Karisal country people, their lives, beliefs, struggles and folklore. He has a number of short story collections including Karisal Kathaigal, Kathavu, Penn Kathaigal and Graamiya Kathaigal, novellas like Kidai and Pinjugal and novels such as Gopalla Gramam, Andaman Naicker, Gopallapurathu Makkal, and many articles. His novel Gopallapurathu

"Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Marriage Assistance Scheme was launched by Hon'ble **Muthamizharignar Dr. Kalaignar,** while inaugurating Quaid-e-Millath District on 11.06.1989 at Dindigul. As yet another move for encouraging women's education, women belonging to poor families who have completed 8th Standard or more will be given a marriage assistance of Rs. 5,000.**"**

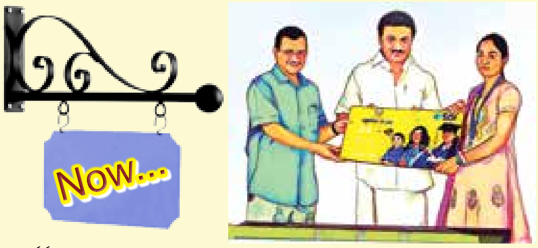
Makkal won the Sahitya Akademi Award in the year 1991.

Ki.Rajanarayanan also received Ilakkiya Chinthanai Award, Tamil Nadu Government Award, Manonmaniam Sundaranar Award, and Tamil Ilakkiya Sadhanai Award of Canada Tamil Ilakkiya Thottam. Thiru. Ki.Rajanarayanan, who lived in the hearts of people through his stories and novels died on 17.05.2021.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced in the Legislative Assembly on 18.05.2021, that to honour the memory of Ki.Rajanarayanan, the school in which he studied would be renovated in keeping with its antiquity and his works and photographs would be displayed in an auditorium for the benefit of present-generation students. Apart from this, a life statue of Ki.Ra. would be erected in Kovilpatti.

As per the Hon'ble Chief Minister's announcement, the Panchayat Union Middle School in Idaiseval, where Ki.Ra. studied was renovated in keeping with its heritage value, at a cost of Rs. 25 lakh and the renovated school was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 11.10.2022.

In continuation of this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open the memorial with a life-size statue of the writer on a 220 sq.metre area, at a cost of Rs. 1,50,70,000, through video conferencing. This memorial has an administrative room, computer library and an exhibition hall.



"The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** inaugurated the 'Pudhumai Penn' Scheme at a function at Bharathi College for Women in Chennai on 05.09.2022. The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced that to ensure that girls acquire the enduring wealth of education, girl students who are pursuing higher education, after completing their 6th to 12th standards in Government schools, will be given Rs. 1,000 per month, under the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme.**"**

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates 57 completed projects in Tenkasi District, distributes welfare aid worth Rs. 182.56 crore to 1,03,508 persons

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** declared open 57 completed schemes valued at Rs. 22.20 crore, laid the foundation stones to 23 new schemes estimated at Rs. 34.14 crore and distributed Government welfare assistance worth Rs. 182.56 crore to 1,03,508 persons, at a Government function held at Tenkasi District on 08.12.2022.

Details of the completed schemes declared open:

Panchayat office buildings constructed at the villages of Maruthamputhur, Velayudhapuram, Elanthur, Viswanathaperi and Kuthukkal Valasai; buildings for Anganwadi Centres at Valangaibalisamudhram, Karaikandarkulam, Kalappakulam, Ariyanayakipuram, Veeriruppu, Mylappapuram, Iynthankattalai, Devipattinam, Koodalur and Sankanaperi Villages; A godown for food grains in Thiruchitrambalam Panchayat, Tenkasi Union; building for milk producers co-operative society at Odaimarichan Panchayat in Alangulam Union; Multi-purpose building in Ko-Marudhapuram and Kulasekaramangalam Villages in Melaneelithanallur Panchayat; an auditorium in Pazhankottai Panchayat, Kuruvikulam Union; 45 green houses constructed at Pacheri in Nelkattumseval Panchayat, Vasudevanallur Union; a community health care complex at Neduvayal Village, Kadayanallur Union; Overhead Water Tank with a capacity of 30,000 litres at Mullikulam Panchayat in Vasudevanallur Union and passenger shelters at Seevanallur and Thiruvetriyur in Shenkottai Union at a cost of Rs. 4.25 crore on behalf of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department;

A soil laboratory at Shenkottai at a cost of Rs. 70 lakh on behalf of the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department;

Sub agricultural extension centres at Oothumalai, Veerakeralampudur and Azhvarkurichi at a cost of Rs. 1.16 crore on behalf of the Agriculture Engineering Department;

Out-patient ward in the Primary Health Centre, Vallam at a cost of Rs. 60 lakh,

sub health care centres in Kambaneri and Madathupatti areas at a cost of Rs. 40 lakh and Nurses' Quarters at Reddiapatti Primary Health Centre at a cost of Rs. 25 lakh on behalf of the Health and Family Welfare Department;

Under the NABARD scheme, construction of 8 class rooms, laboratory and rest rooms for students at Sevalkulam Government high school at a cost of Rs. 2.15 crore on behalf of the School Education Department;

A park in Tenkasi Municipality and a health care centre in Mangamma road at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh; a sludge management centre in Sankarankovil Municipality area at a cost of Rs. 3.17 crore; an urban welfare centre at Kumundhapuram and Melakadayanallur in Kadayanallur work Municipality and development work of Annamalai Tank and Thirumal Vizhungi ooruni at a cost of Rs. 1.17 crore on behalf of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department;

Construction of Revenue Inspector Quarters at A.Karisalkulam, Pazhankottai and Vasudevanallur Villages at a cost of Rs. 63 lakh; Primary Health Centres at Thalaivankottai, Sankarankovil and Kadayanallur areas and upgraded Siddha Medical units in hospitals at a cost of Rs. 52.50 lakh and hostel for backward class college students at Naduvakurichi, Sankarankovil at a cost of Rs. 3.93 crore on behalf of the PWD (construction and maintenance);

Construction of a check dam to prevent forest fire at Puliyangudi Thalaiyanai forest areas at a cost of Rs. 3 lakh on behalf of the Forest Department;

A modern fish market at Kadayanallur Municipality at a cost of Rs. 40 lakh Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department;

Under the Integrated Child Development scheme, construction of child centres in Mathalampaarai, Anjaam Kattalai and Naduvakurichi Villages at a cost of Rs.32.73 lakh on behalf of the Social Welfare and Women's Empowerment Department; and

On behalf of the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department's TAHDCO, Government Adi Dravidar Welfare modern community halls at Karisathan, Puliyangudi and Sankarankovil at a cost of Rs. 2.02 crore - totally, 57 completed schemes, costing Rs. 22.20 crore were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Details of the new schemes for which foundation was laid:

Construction of Panchayat office building and a overhead water tank at Nerkattumseval; construction of fair price shops at Kuthapanjan, Malayaramapuram, Selvavinayakapuram, Nagalkulam, Elathur, Sumaitheerthapuram, Kasimajorpuram, Nerkattumseval and Aandarkulam villages at a cost of Rs. 1.57

crore on behalf of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department;

Several buildings at Tenkasi Government District Hospital inclusive of maternity centre, institute of obstetrics and gynaecology and children skill development centre at a cost of Rs. 30.03 crore on behalf of the Health and Family Welfare Department;

Buildings for Anganwadi centres at 5 places including Kumundhapuram in Kadayanallur Taluk at a cost of Rs. 37.50 lakh on behalf of the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department;

A gas crematorium at Puliyankudi Municipality at a cost of Rs. 1.44 crore on behalf of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department;

A pedigree protection and research centre for indigenous dogs in Tamil Nadu at Pavoorchatram at a cost of Rs. 72.55 lakh (Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University); - totally, foundation was laid for 23 new scheme works valued at Rs. 34.14 crore.

on behalf of the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management Department;

Welfare assistance under different schemes including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme, Swachh Bharat Mission and Prime Minister's Housing Scheme to 5,399 persons on behalf of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department; welfare assistance to 12,371 beneficiaries under various schemes including Kalaignarin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development scheme, Chief Minister; Dryland Development Mission and Micro irrigation scheme on behalf of the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department; new family cards to 1,048 beneficiaries on behalf of the Food and Consumer Protection Department and welfare assistance to 3,400 persons including loans for milch cattle, petty trades, working women and houses on behalf of the Department of Co-operation; various welfare assistance to 124 beneficiaries inclusive of iron box to press clothes, sewing machines and bi-cycles to Ulemas on behalf of the BC, MBC and

Details of the Government welfare assistance distributed:

Many types of welfare assistance including free house site pattas and e- pattas to 11,996 beneficiaries, under social defence scheme, many kinds of welfare assistance including pension for the aged, widows and spinsters to 6,246 persons

Minorities Welfare Department; many kinds of welfare assistance to 4,605 beneficiaries inclusive of retro scooters, wheel chairs, push carts and walking sticks on behalf of the Welfare of the Differently-Abled persons Department; new cards to 3,500 beneficiaries under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance scheme and a relief of Rs.5 lakh to the mother of late Thiru. S. Muthukrishnan, journalist in the Pudhiya Thalaimurai TV channel at a cost of Rs. 3 lakh from Journalists' Family Assistance Scheme and Rs.2 lakh from Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund on behalf of the Health and Family Welfare Department – totally Rs.182.57 crore was distributed to 1,03,508 beneficiaries.

Earlier, the Hon'ble Chief Minister visited the exhibition organized by the various departments at a Government function at Wales Vidyalaya School, Tenkasi and declared open a statue of Thiruvalluvar set up in the school complex.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the function:

I extend my affectionate greetings to all of you. I have come to this Courtallam forest area, hailed by poets. The moment I stepped into this District, just like the climate of this place, the mind became cool. The light drizzle as if it is the sprinkling of water, is soothing for a person like me from hot Madras. The Government celebrates 'Saaral Vizha' every year. A District that nestles at the foot of the western ghats. A District that has hilly areas, fertile lands and forests as well. A District with many waterfalls and dams – in short a District draped in Nature's beauty. This is Tenkasi District.

Moreover, this is the land of the great hero, Poolithevan, who defied the British and refused to pay tax in 1755. It is our Leader Kalaignar, the then Chief Minister who raised a Manimandapam to 'Maaveeran' Poolithevan at Nerkattumseval in 1998. Again it was Muthamizharignar Thalaivar Kalaignar who allotted funds while ruling the State for construction of a Manimandapam to Ondi Veeran, the Commander of 'Maaveeran' Poolithevan's army.

King Parakrama Pandiyan constructed the Tenkasi Gopuram with the idea of

creating a Kasi in the South also as it is in the North. Arikesari Parakrama Pandiyan invaded Sri Lanka from here.

When efforts were made in 1960 to renovate the Tenkasi temple Rajagopuram, constructed 500 years earlier, P.T. Rajan, one of the leaders of the Justice Party, was appointed as the President of the renovation committee. Later, a similar committee was set up during the Makkal Thilagam MGR's rule under the chairmanship of the highly respected Pa. Sivanthi Adithan, the owner of 'Dhina Thanthi' newspaper group. During the DMK regime, the consecration of the Raja Gopuram was conducted on 25.06.1990 under the leadership of 'Dinakaran' K.P. Kandasamy, the then HR & CE Minister.

I am really happy and proud to have come to Tenkasi, famous for heroism, spirituality and agricultural production. I heartily congratulate Hon'ble Minister and Friend K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran who is discharging his duties as the Minister-in-charge of this District. Though he hails from Virudhunagar, he has been additionally put in charge of Tenkasi District, as an award for his work. He considers Tenkasi too as his home District and functions with great success though he has to ride two horses at the same time.

He is not only an excellent worker of mighty proportions but also a man who completes the task on hand in an inimitable way. He was unwell some weeks ago and some days ago also but he discharged his duty by staying back in Tenkasi unmindful of his health and keeping in mind only the interests of the people of this District. Hence, I extend my hearty greetings to him on behalf of the Government and the people of this District. Likewise, I wish to extend my appreciation to

all persons who stood by him and worked with him – MPs, MLAs, District Collector, Tenkasi District Government officers and staff.

This function has been organized in a mammoth manner, making one wonder whether it is a Government function or the state-level conference of the DMK party; the amount to be disbursed here is also on a huge scale.

- I have dedicated to the people of this District 57 completed scheme works valued at Rs. 22.20 crore.
- Foundation has been laid today for 23 new works valued at Rs. 34.14 crore.
- Welfare assistance to the tune of Rs. 182.56 crore is to be distributed here to 1,03,508 persons.
- I am happy that, more than one lakh families are benefitting from this event. It has been 19 months since DMK rule flowered. In this period, we have been continuously recording numerous achievements for the people of Tamil Nadu. I am making this declaration in front of you, not in an ordinary way but proudly with my chest high. These are not mere words; the beneficiaries

bless this Government for many more years to continue. I will mention the number of beneficiaries alone in this District.

- Under the scheme 'Chief Minister in Your Constituency', 11,494 petitions were received and solutions were found for 11,490.
- Loans of Women Self Help Groups to the extent of Rs. 27.77 crore were waived.
- Welfare assistance worth Rs. 24.23 lakh was distributed to 486 persons.
- 41,980 students were benefited by the scheme 'Illam Thedi Kalvi'.
- Women have benefited through 80 lakh trips under the free bus travel scheme for women.
- 2,935 transgenders have benefited.
- 50,361 differently-abled persons have benefited.
- Waiver of crop and jewel loans to an extent of Rs. 436 crore for 73,491 persons.
- Under the new electricity connection scheme for farmers, power connection has been given to 1,823 beneficiaries at a cost of Rs. 13 crore.
- 19,599 persons have benefited under the 'Kalaignarin Varumun Kappom' scheme.
- The corona special relief of Rs. 4,000 each has been disbursed to 4,41,989 persons.
- 50,000 palm seeds and saplings have been sown at a cost of Rs. 1.95 lakh.
- New pension orders have been issued on behalf of the Department of Revenue and Disaster management, under the social defence scheme.
- Agricultural tool packs have been distributed to 1,701 families.
- Rs. 1.50 lakh has been distributed to 84 Archakas, 6 Pattacharyas and 60 Poojaris at the rate of Rs.1,000 as monthly incentive.
- A new Revenue Divisional Office building has been constructed at Sankarankovil at an estimate of Rs. 2.12 crore.

The list goes on.

I was informed of some of the demands of the Tenkasi District people before I came to this event. I summoned the officers immediately and discussed those demands. I am extremely happy to make an announcement on fulfilling some of the demands.

- The Puliyangudi - Sankarankovil Highways, the important link road of Tenkasi District, will be upgraded.
- The newly created Tenkasi District will have a new District sports complex.
- In deference to the long standing demand of the people of Duraisamypuram, the Panaiyur Gudalur-Duraisingapuram road will be upgraded.
- The Elathur Big Lake in betweenTenkasi and Courtallam will be upgraded at a cost of Rs. 10 crore as an important fishing and tourist centre.

Services Examination in 2020, at the 3rd place at the state level and the first place in women's category.

Recently, I received a letter from the child Aradhana, studying in the third standard in the Panchayat Union school at Vinaitheerthanadarpatti. She had requested in that letter construction of an additional classroom to her school. See, a child has written a letter with immense faith in me! I was proud and happy. I declare here that child Aradhana's request has been accepted. In the first phase, I am happy to announce that 2 classrooms will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 35.50 lakh. I bless child Aradhana, who wrote a letter to me at such a tender age with confidence, that she should continue her studies in the same school and come up in life.

- To fulfil the demand of the farmers of Sivagiri and Alangulam, a new Regulated Market Centre will be set up.

Likewise, the Ramanadhi and Jambunadhi scheme works to be executed in the Alangulam Assembly Constituency will be started shortly after getting the permission of the Union Government's Forest Department. In the erstwhile State regime, administrative clearance was given but scheme works were not started as proper permission had not been obtained. After our Government was set up, proper forest department permissions were obtained and now the scheme has been recommended to the Union Government's Forest Department.

Such are the DMK Government's welfare scheme achievements.

Through this event, I express my greetings and appreciation to the student Shanmugavalli of Alankar Nagar, Tenkasi for capturing the 108th place at the national level in the Civil

It is the Government of Tamil Nadu, the DMK Government which retrieved the Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar College at Melaneelithanallur, Sankarankovil Taluk, Tenkasi District, from encroachers, and appointed a special officer for the college.

For the educational uplift of Mukkulathors, 3 colleges were started in the southern District in 1969 with P.K. Mookiah Thevar's efforts. The then Chief Minister Perarignar Anna and our Thalaivar Kalaignar helped in a big way. Of the 3 colleges, one was started at Melaneelithanallur. To administer that college, a 'Thevar Educational Society – Tirunelveli District', headed by the former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Thiru. Chellapandian, was set up. The then Chief Minister Kalaignar sanctioned it and assigned 44.94 acres of Government land for the educational development of the people

of that Taluk. But, with the passage of time, its purpose was smashed into smithereens by some and it was encroached upon by private persons. Many alumni fought for its retrieval.

I gave a promise at a public meeting at Madurai before the Assembly Election that I would retrieve the Thevar college from the clutches of private persons. Petitions were given to me, also at the event ‘Stalin in your Constituency’.

After the formation of the Government, a Special Officer was appointed to administer the college under G.O.No.146 which was issued as per the Private Colleges Regulation Act. From this dais I declare that we will develop that college for the purpose for which Mookiah Thevar and Chellapandian established it and conduct that college to benefit the people of this region.

Our Government is functioning in this manner, enquiring about the needs of each and every one and understanding the problems of every area, and addressing them. Unable to bear this, the Leader of the Opposition is saying that the DMK has not achieved anything or fulfilled any of its assurances after it came to rule. For some months he was saying – nay – he was lamenting that one or the other left out assurance had not been implemented. When we executed them also, he took refuge, not knowing what to say, in a one-liner, saying not a single thing has been implemented.

One is reminded of the saying that the world does not go dark when a cat closes its eyes. The Leader of the Opposition thinks like that. He may have closed his eyes; but the people of Tamil Nadu woke up 19 months ago, closed the period of darkness and created the era of the Rising Sun. So, I don’t want to reply in detail to the sharp words of those who have been rejected by the people. As we are busy fulfilling our promises, we have no time to answer such words. Our critics criticize us just to justify their existence. But we are true to the people who believed us and voted for us; we toil sincerely. My aim is to make Tamil Nadu the very best state in India.

In the previous year, the India Today magazine took a survey to rank the Chief Ministers in India and announced that I am number one. When reporters referred to it, I told them that I did not feel proud of it. “As far as I am concerned, more than getting ranked as number one after assuming the office of Chief Minister, my aim is that Tamil Nadu should come first in the whole of India when I am Chief Minister.” That is my target and we are proceeding towards it.

Tamil Nadu should develop in all sectors, whether it is big industry, small scale industry, education, health, infrastructure, uplift of women or oppressed people, youth welfare or sports. We are not only framing schemes for that, I see the rise of Tamil Nadu even as we implement these schemes. This is being confirmed by the information we get daily. Data released sometimes by the Union Government reveals the growth of Tamil Nadu; indices published by some NGOs reveal it; articles published by English media proudly mention the growth of Tamil Nadu.

These constitute the solid evidence for the rise of Tamil Nadu, in all sectors and in people from all sections are being uplifted. More

than all these, I see the happiness in the hearts of the beneficiaries. One can reach this place from Tenkasi in 15 minutes, at the latest. But it took us one-and-a-half hours because of the massive reception given to me by men, women, youth, and students standing on either side of the road. I witnessed the enthusiasm with which they repeatedly told me that this Government should continue. This is the hallmark of a good administration.

My daily routine is to frame schemes, execute them and bring them to completion! I do not think that my duty ends with the announcement of a scheme and allotment of funds for it; I monitor the scheme every day. I repeat continuously that my aim is to complete the schemes in time. I visit every District, participate in Government functions and complete many works.

In the next stage, I propose to review these schemes District-wise; visit the sites where the works that were announced, are executed, expedite them and hold discussions with officers and staff, keeping the Ministers by their side. The purpose of the scheme will be fulfilled only if its spirit reaches the staff at the last level.

Perarignar Anna said:

Go to the people!

Live with them!

And learn from them!

Our Government will function as a Government for the people. Though this District has come out of Tirunelveli District, no one needs to entertain an iota of doubt over implementation of all the schemes for it. The assurances given, the demands made and the problems that confront us, have all been visited earlier; still they have reminded us. They come up in the Assembly also. So, this Government will certainly take suitable measures. We will certainly implement them. This Government will certainly support the development of Tenkasi District. Assuring you that I will stand by your side, I take leave of you, expressing my heart-felt gratitude to all of you once again.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon’ble Chief Minister launches scheme for improving the lives of conservancy workers

‘Sanitation Workers Development Scheme’

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.M.K.Stalin** inaugurated the ‘Sanitation Workers Development Scheme’ to protect the welfare of conservancy workers, on behalf of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, at a function held in Madurai Corporation office complex in Madurai on 09.12.2022. On the occasion, the Hon’ble Chief Minister, as a token of distributing protective gear to 53,301 sanitation workers in the State, handed over them to 5 persons as a token.

Conservancy workers play a key role in keeping our cities clean and hygienic. The workers face many socio-economic challenges. Though they face discrimination, they are dedicating themselves to the health infrastructure of cities. Sometimes they face dangerous hazards while doing their work.

In the 2022-2023 budget demand for the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, it was announced that the present Government would show the utmost concern for conservancy workers. To improve their livelihood and to ensure their safety, the Sanitation Workers Development Scheme will be implemented by integrating various Government welfare schemes to

ensure that they benefit from them. The proper education of their children will be ensured. Skill training required for the mechanization of conservancy work will be given and based on their desire for that work, steps will be taken to provide bank loans to conservancy staff to start alternative trades.

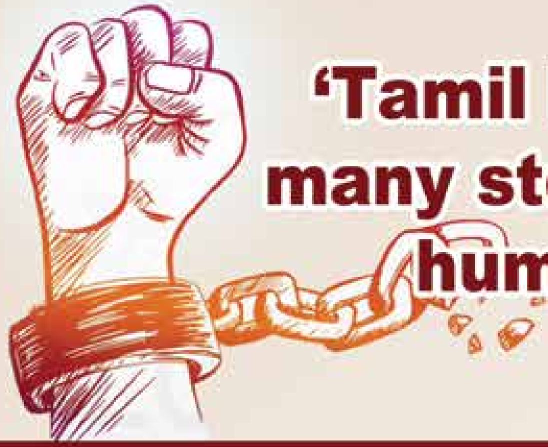
On the basis of the announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu launched the Sanitation Workers Development Scheme and released the logo of the scheme. He also unveiled the mobile application for identification and census of sanitary workers.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu also handed over protective gear like headgear, hand gloves, gum boots and glowing jacket to sanitation workers. He also reviewed the field-level works of the Sanitation Workers Development Scheme and short films.

The scheme will benefit 18,859 permanent workers and 34,442 temporary workers, totalling 53,301 sanitary workers. The programme will also benefit unorganized workers of private institutions involved in sanitation work.

The scheme will be implemented with the assistance of the Urban Management Centre, Ahmedabad. On a pilot basis, the scheme will be implemented in the Zone 6 - Thiru.Vi.Ka. Nagar of the Chennai Corporation, and in Madurai Corporation, Pudukkottai and Pollachi Municipalities and Cheranmadevi Town Panchayat. The sanitary workers will be identified in 5 urban local bodies and the scheme implemented for them. The scheme will be subsequently extended to other local bodies.

Through the scheme, sanitary workers in the State will be identified and steps will be taken to link skill training, education to their children, bank loan facility for starting their own trade, pension and insurance for them. Through these measures, the standard of living of the sanitary workers will be improved along with their economic development. ■



‘Tamil Nadu taking many steps to ensure human rights’

Message of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M. K. Stalin for “International Human Rights Day”.

‘Human Rights’ are innate, basic rights that are accepted all over the world extensively. Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10 on the basis that all the people created in the world are equal, on the ideology that dignity and rights should be given to all and on the perception that all should act conscientiously and with a sense of brotherhood.

Ever since the United Nation General Assembly accepted in 1948 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, many countries have made great progress in implementing human rights. This has removed hurdles to the full enjoyment of people’s freedom, self-respect and humanism. Racial laws have been removed in many countries; laws and social practices that pushed women to a second class status have been scrapped; ways have been found for the minorities to follow their religious belief without any sense of fear.

India’s role was great in the United Nation General Assembly’s acceptance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. As its follow up, India enacted the Human Rights Protection Act on 28.09.1993. Under clauses 3 and 21 of this Act, National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commission were set up respectively at the Union and State levels.

Tamil Nadu is at the forefront among many States that have set up Human Rights Commissions. The Commission has been functioning in Tamil Nadu from 17.04.1997. In the first year of inception itself, the Commission received 2,162 complaints and appropriate solutions were found. Of the 2,45,688 complaints received from April 1997 to August 2022, the Commission resolved 2,06,762 complaints.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is taking many steps for the implementation of the Human Rights Protection Act of 1993. College students who have taken law, human rights education, psychology and criminology as their course of study are given internships in Tamil Nadu Human Rights Commission. It is appreciable that these college students are encouraged to create awareness about human rights and to spread information about the activities of the Commission.

Hon'ble Chief Minister launches Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** launched the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission, at the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Summit 2022, organized by the Environment Climate Change and Forests Department, on 09.12.2022.

At the Climate Change Summit, held on 08.12.2022, many climate change experts, international experts and senior government officials participated, and discussed and suggested various measures to make the State fit enough to face climate change.

In the budget for the financial year 2021-2022, the State Government announced the launch of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission at an outlay of Rs.500 crore to undertake climate change management and mitigation measures.

Following this, Tamil Nadu established India's first Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC), a special purpose vehicle to implement three major conservation projects, namely Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission and Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission.

The Government earlier allotted Rs.77.35 crore for the year 2021-2023 to carry out basic research related to reduction of vehicle emissions, restoration of coastal habitats, creation of mangrove forests, efforts to generate energy from water and green power generation, creation of life shields in coastal areas, climate literacy and sustainable villages.

In March, 2022, district-level climate missions were set up. The District Forest Officers were appointed as climate officers by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Blue Flag Certificate for coastal areas has been introduced for sustainable tourism and for improving and upgrading coastal management, to reduce pollution along sea coasts and to improve the standard of the coastal areas to the international level.

With a view to implement the scheme in a better manner and to get Blue Flag Certificate for 10 beaches in Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Chief Minister entrusted the task of conducting basic research to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management.

Smart Villages: Utilizing solar energy to the fullest extent, collection of details regarding climate change, management of sewage and water resources, rain-water harvesting and greenery development are the main features of Smart Villages. In Tamil Nadu, 10 villages are to be selected for preparing an extensive plan and implementing them in co-ordination with the World Resources Institute. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, by a letter, handed over the task of entrusting the work to the Institute.

Green startup scheme: To combat the challenges of climate changes and to find ways to live along with them, to give suggestions for climate challenges depending on situations in districts, and to implement selection of green experts for each district, the task has been given to the Institute of Energy Studies of the Anna University. The Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the letter in this connection to Anna University.

Green Temples Scheme:

As a part of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission, the Green Temples Scheme will be implemented in the State. In the first phase of the scheme, 2 temples will be selected. These temples will have features such as water management and waste management so that the temples are resilient to combat the climate changes.

Green Schools Scheme: To create awareness among school students about the environment, the greatness of trees, the utilization of non-conventional energy resources and to set up gardens and grow medicinal plants in gardens, these 25 green schools will be formed in the State. For this Rs. 5 crore has been sanctioned and the School Education Department is the agency for implementing the scheme.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission, Green Temples scheme and the Smart Villages Scheme and the Green Schools Scheme at the function.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the function:

This historically significant meeting has been arranged for the benefit not only of Tamil Nadu and of India, but also for the entire world.

There are no boundaries for nature and no limitations. It is common to all. This meeting has been arranged on the basis that it is the responsibility of all to protect nature.

This issue is not confined to India but to the entire world. The issue cannot be solved by Governments alone. That is the reason that Thiru. Erik Solheim of Norway and former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Thiru. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, and non-Government officials have joined together to organize the conference.

Whatever be the set up, the only concern of all now is climate change. Humanity's main issue now is climate change. I have been telling this from the day that the present Government took charge. That is the reason that I feel proud to launch the Mission as a model to all the States in the country.

I see it not only as a historic necessity but as my responsibility. The need to protect the environment has been stressed for over 2,000 years right from Tholkappiar to Thiruvalluvar. The present Government is following that path.

When Periyar asked with whom he would like to be identified, he said he would like to be identified as a natural man. I don't have an artificial identity, said Periyar. My affiliation is only to humanity, he said. We should all be such men of nature who have affiliations only to humanity. We should all live like that. If we do so there won't be any differences and problems. This is what nature is teaching us time and again.

We are all experiencing too much heat from the sun, excess rainfall, unseasonal rains, absence of rains, excess heat, floods, Tsunami, earthquakes, landslides, new diseases, physical and mental problems, shortage of food, reduction in soil fertility, air pollution, heavy floods not only in Chennai and Bengaluru but in many big cities globally, loss of lives due to cloud burst in Telangana and Uttarakhand, and earthquakes in Kerala. We have been facing disasters from various sides.

The increase in carbon quantity in the atmosphere results in an increase in the temperature of the earth. Climate change has its impact not only on people, but on other living things also. We are directly facing the result of all this. This issue is not confined to Tamil Nadu but has to do with all the States and all the Countries as well.

To reduce the impact of climate change, international and various research findings have advised that we must become carbon neutral by 2050.

In the Glasgow international conference last year, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India said that India will reach carbon neutrality by 2070. The Prime Minister's speech revealed the seriousness of the issue.

Right from the day this Government took over, it has taken various measures for carbon neutrality and implemented them. The Dravidian Model Government has taken various measures which have not been taken up by any other State Governments.

We have changed the name of the Department as Environment and Climate Change Department.

We announced a climate change scheme for the State.

We have allotted Rs.500 crore in the budget.

We are going to implement special schemes to improve the forest cover in the State from 21 per cent to 33 per cent in the next 10 years, through the Tamil Nadu Green mission. A few months back, I inaugurated some of the schemes.

So far, 2.80 crore tree saplings have been planted. This programme will not only improve the forest cover but also reduce carbon emission.

We have installed a Climate Studio at Anna University to monitor climate change and for predicting the monsoon.

We have taken up schemes for creating separate models for Tamil Nadu and to set up drones. For these measures, we have allotted Rs. 10 crore.

If a State is to achieve Carbon neutrality, then all the parts of the State should attain carbon neutrality. For this 10 villages have been selected to be developed as sustainable villages. The scheme is to start today.

Climate literacy programme is to be launched in the State to take the climate change concept to school and college students and entrepreneurs. An announcement in this regard is to be made soon.

To prevent sea erosion and to protect biodiversity of sea shores, Palmyra planting scheme is being implemented.

The present Government considers protection of biodiversity as its main duty. Earlier there was only one marshland recognized by Ramsar. We have increased it to 13 in the State.

We have set up sanctuaries for sea cows and Thevangu (slender loris) to protect them. To integrate all these activities we have formed the 'Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company'.

We have started the 'Meendum Manjal Pai' mission to avoid people using plastic bags for shopping.

To integrate these activities and to meet the challenge of Climate Change, we have set up a Climate Change Executive committee,

including members from the Non-Government agencies.

At this juncture, I would like to make some important announcements.

- All green projects will be cleared through the single window scheme through Guidance Tamil Nadu of the Industries Department. This move will improve the State to one trillion dollar economy before the end of 2030.
- To improve and transmit the production of renewable energy, a separate Green Corridor will be formed.
- A New Re-Powering Policy will be released for wind power plants.
- All the policies and schemes will be reviewed on the basis of climate change.
- Steps are being taken to set up a Green Climate Fund, with an investment of Rs. 1,000 crore. In the first phase, the State Government will contribute Rs.100 crore to the fund. The fund will be utilized to get contributions from national and international agencies to create environment friendly infrastructure in the State.
- The State will announce new schemes for the entrepreneurs, who want to set up new units related to climate change, renewable energy, revolving economy and sustainable growth.

The State is at the forefront in the Country not only in social justice. It will also be at the vanguard of environmental justice. Though we pay attention to growth and industrial development on the one hand, we will also give equal importance to the environment and nature. We are for life in harmony with nature and growth without affecting nature. This is our approach.

I am proud to say that the State will attain its carbon neutrality well ahead of the Nation's target of 2070. The State will take all possible measures to achieve it.

We will protect the people. We will protect the environment.

We will also protect the land. We will protect the Nature. We will protect lives. We will save bio-diversity, protect human civilisation.

Nandri, Vanakkam.

நம்ம School
PARTNERING FOR CHANGE

Hon'ble Chief Minister launches Namma School Foundation initiative to enlist public support for Government schools

Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K.Stalin** while inaugurating the 'Namma School Foundation', on behalf of the School Education Department19.12.2022.

At the outset, I extend my warm welcome to you all. The late, Inamaana Perasiriyar Anbazhagan, whose birth centenary is being celebrated today not only by the Government, but also by all Tamil people as Education Minister created many records in the Education Department. This year on behalf of the Government, we are organizing many functions in honour of the Perasiriyar Anbazhagan. Today, in connection with the Centenary celebrations of Perasiriyar Anbazhagan, we named the Directorate of School Education situated in Nungambakkam after him. Already, we are implementing the Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Scheme in the State, at a cost of Rs. 7,500 crore. In continuation of the scheme, we are today inaugurating a scheme to develop Government schools in the State with private participation.

If you ask anybody which is the most unforgettable time of your life, the immediate answer would be, the carefree school days. Nobody forgets their school days. Similarly, most people will refer only to a schoolmate as the best friend. We never forget the school teachers and their memories always come to our

mind. Our school days are the springtime of our lives. We all owe our present position to our school. Is it not our duty to help these schools? With this noble objective, the 'Namma School Foundation' has been launched.

It is not possible for the Government alone to implement everything. People also should co-operate. Those who are benefited by schools should reciprocate. The 'Namma School Foundation' initiative has been conceived to enable this.

After the formation of the DMK Government, we are making spectacular growth in all spheres. Thiru. Venu Srinivasan congratulated me by showing the India Today report that the State is at the forefront in the country. I am proud of it.

I hope that you would not have forgotten that after the completion of the first year of the DMK Government, India Today released a similar opinion poll, in which it stated that I was the number one Chief Minister in the country. When journalist asked me for my reaction to the report, I said that I was really proud of it. But my ambition was that Tamil Nadu should be the number one State in the country. That would make me more proud. That situation has now been created and I am really proud of it. For that Thiru. Venu Srinivasan congratulated me again. You are also greeting me for that honour.

Today, the role of School Education is very important. At present, the State is in the second position. Efforts are being taken by the Education Department to take the State to the number one position in the country.

- The Government is functioning with the basic target of education for all. The Government's 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' Scheme is giving good results.
- We have created a situation in which even children who could not attend school are made to attend schools through an App.
- We have launched the 'Ennum Ezhuthum' scheme.
- Model Schools are functioning.
- A portal has been developed to train students from 9th to 12th Standard under the 'Naan Mudhalvan' Scheme.
- Children who need special attention are identified and are provided treatment and the necessary equipment.
- Today, I am inaugurating the Nam palli Nam perumai' (My School, My Pride) scheme here.
- We have formed managing committees consisting of parents of students, headmasters, teachers, representatives of local bodies and educationists.

- In this way, the Dravidian Model Government is creating an arrangement through which students will be able to pursue their education without any hindrance.

Education is the only wealth which cannot be stolen. We are trying to create this wealth and give it to students. In this connection, we have launched the ‘Namma School Foundation’ initiative. A Government school is not the property of the Government alone. It is also the property of the people. We have therefore set up School Managing Committees. We have restored the Management Committees of 37,558 schools in the State. Through these committees, parents, teachers, students, former students, representatives of local bodies and members of society have joined together. They decide on the requirements of the schools and create the requirement.

These requirements could not be fulfilled by the Government alone. We definitely need your help and assistance. As you are always supportive of the development of Government schools, I want you to join us through the ‘Namma School’ concept. Every paisa you donate will be properly accounted for and there will be transparency in the spending. The donations will be utilized for the development of our schools, our teachers and our children.

I assure you that this will be a continuous bond between you and the Government. I appeal to you to renew your relationship with your school and your native place through the Virtual Pavilion introduced by the Government. Wherever you are, your roots with your native place in Tamil Nadu should be strengthened. It is a good opportunity for us to give back to our school. Our children in the future will help enable the growth of our institutions, villages and towns in the State. They will take up the growth of our prosperity, our confidence and our schemes.

I am proud that 2 personalities who are the pride of Tamil Nadu have come forward to support our mission for the growth of our schools in the State. Thiru. Venu Srinivasan, well known industrialist of the State and Chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand have come forward to be the Chairman and Ambassador of the Foundation respectively.

There could be no better Ambassador than Viswanathan Anand, who has brought fame to Tamil Nadu and the country through chess. Thiru. Venu Srinivasan’s intellectual guidance, with the support of Thiru. Viswanathan’s guidance, will help the foundation get more funds. I believe that all of you will donate liberally for the foundation. As a beginning, I am contributing Rs. 5 lakh from my own funds for the foundation. This scheme is for the education of our children and for the development of our schools. Through this function I appeal to all my Cabinet colleagues,

MPs, MLAs, local body representatives, Government employees, public and private sector employees, industrialists, traders and cine artistes to donate liberally for the noble cause. I assure you that every rupee you donate for the foundation will be utilized for the welfare of schools only. I am confident that you will accept my appeal and donate liberally for the school fund, upgrade the standard of the schools and create the schools of our dreams.

'Let the joy of Pongal overflow in the Tamil Motherland'

Greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** on the occasion of the Tamil festival Pongal -14.01.2023.

My joyous, sweet Pongal Festival greetings to all the people of motherland Tamil Nadu.

We all belong to the working class that considered farming as the greatest occupation. Our ancestors have classified land on the basis of the nature of the soil. Our ancestors not only lived along with people but with other living things also.

Pongal Festival is one where race, land, people, harvest and food and other living things come together in celebrating the festival. The sky gave us rain and the earth received it. For this relation, we express our sincere thanks by worshiping the Sun.

We cook Pongal in a new pot by using freshly harvested grain, lighting the stove and wishing that our joy should fill the hearts of all people all over the country. There is an adage in Tamil that with the birth of Tamil month, Thai, new avenues to life will open up for all things. That is the reason that all of us celebrate the day as the month that proclaims the greatness of the Tamil language. For the people of the State to celebrate the festival with joy, the Government is giving Rs.1,000 along with rice, sugar and sugarcane. The festival should be celebrated as a casteless and general festival irrespective of caste and religion. Let there be joy in the hearts of all Tamil people. Let there be sweetness in their lives like sugarcane. I wish you all a happy Pongal on this festival of Tamils.

Hon'ble Chief Minister at 101st birth anniversary of Perasiriyar

'Let us take the pledge of ensuring all things for all people'

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** on the of birth anniversary of Perasiriyar Anbazhagan - 19.12.2022.

With the completion of the centenary function, today is the 101st birth anniversary of 'Inamaana' Perasiriyar Anbazhagan. This is the day on which racial pride, self respect and ethnic awareness were born.

Perasiriyar has left behind imprints that cannot be erased in Tamil Nadu politics and DMK's history as an MLA for nine times, a Member of Lok Sabha from Tiruchengode between 1967-1971, State Education Minister twice, Minister for family welfare and social welfare, Finance Minister when Muthamizharignar Kalaignar became Chief Minister for the 5th time in 2006-2011 and General Secretary of DMK from 1977 to 2020.

From the self-respect movement period till today's Dravidian Model regime, Perasiriyar Perunthagai gave guidance by words and even now we feel his guidance.

Like 'Pagutharivu Pagalavan' Thanthai Periyar, 'Valluvan of Kanchi' Perarignar Anna and 'Thamizhina Thalaivar' Kalaignar, the thoughts and services of 'Inamaana' Perasiriyar were the pinnacle of the basic ideology that benefited Thamizhagam fully for the last 75 years. Not only did he elucidate the Dravidian doctrine but also became its torch-bearer. In the light of the racial dignity that he shed, our journey continues.

Perasiriyar stated that the service of establishing that Tamils are not inferior to anyone in this land of the Indian sub - continent, is his work. The Dravidian Model regime functions with that ideal. If the DMK Government has achieved the ideal of its Chief Minister getting the premier place among the Chief Ministers in the country and Tamil Nadu a similar place among States – this is the dream about Tamil Nadu that Perasiriyar wanted to see.

Perasiriyar stressed at every public meeting that social justice and reservation of the Justice Party times should not be allowed to wither away. The social justice ideology and reservation are today reverberating all over India and no one can touch that ideology.

It was Perasiriyar who stirringly raised the question of state autonomy and state rights in the Indian Parliament. Today, state autonomy demand has started echoing in all states of the Indian Union. We see even national parties talking about state autonomy. At a time of the centenary function, most of the dreams of Perasiriyar have grown to become the dreams of a majority of people in India.

Perasiriyar made a request - 'Every day, before going to sleep, please think of what you have done for saving the Tamil race'. I request everyone to keep this in mind and to act towards this end. Let us take a pledge on the 101st birth anniversary of Perasiriyar for a world that rises towards the ideal of all things for all people'.

Coveted trophy of FIH Hockey World Cup 2023 arrives in Chennai, given enthusiastic welcome

The FIH Hockey World Cup-2023, to be held at Bhubaneswar- Rourkela, in the Odisha State was shown to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.M.K.Stalin** at the Secretariat, Chennai on 21.12.2022 by the office-bearers of the Tamil Nadu Hockey Association and the State hockey players. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu wished the hockey players the best of luck.

To create awareness about hockey, the FIH Hockey World cup is on a State-tour. The cup, which started its journey from Mumbai in Maharashtra, reached Chennai by air. It was given a rousing reception at the airport by the office-bearers of the State Hockey Association and the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority and hockey players.

To create awareness about hockey and also to popularize the game, the FIH Hockey World Cup was shown to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu by the Secretary of the Indian Hockey Association, Thiru. Sekar and other office bearers. The World Cup was later handed over to the Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The World Cup will be taken to Anna University and M.O.P. Vaishnav College by frontline hockey players and later to the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium, where the Cup will be given a traditional welcome. Later, an exhibition match will be held between the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority Team and the Police Department. Cultural programmes will also be organized.

The Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and sports Development, and sports development Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin will then hand over the World Cup to the office-bearers of the Kerala Hockey Association and also honour the artists and the hockey players. Following this, the cup will be taken to different parts of the State for the next 15 days to 100 schools in the State for popularizing and creating awareness about the game. These arrangements have been made jointly by the Indian Hockey Association, Tamil Nadu Hockey Association and the Tamil Nadu Sports development Authority.

Hon'ble Chief Minister gives Rs. 5 crore cheque for starting Tamil literary studies Department in JNU

Hon'ble Chief Minister gives Rs. 5 crore cheque to the Jawaharlal Nehru University

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin,** handed over a cheque for Rs.5 crore to the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for creating a separate Department of Tamil Literary Studies, gave the royalty money to 3 Tamil scholars whose books have been nationalized and to the heirs of 5 Tamil scholars whose books have been nationalized, distributed 'Tamil Chemmal Awards' for the year 2021 to 38 Tamil scholars and the 'Best Translators Award' to 10 authors, at the Secretariat, Chennai on 21.12.2022, on behalf of the Tamil Development Department.

The cheque of Rs. 5 crore for starting a separate Department for Tamil Literature was handed over to the Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu also handed over a cheque of Rs. 15 lakh each to 3 living Tamil scholars – Thiru. Nellai S.Diwan, Thiru. Viduthalai Rajendran and Thiru. N.Mammathu, as royalty for nationalizing their books.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also gave away a cheque of Rs.15 lakh to Tamil scholar late Nellai Kannan, cheque of Rs.10 lakh each to Thiru. Gandharvan alias Nagalingam, Thiru. Somale, Dr.N.Rasaiah and Thanjai Thiru. Prakash as royalty for nationalizing their books.

Tamil Chemmal Awards are given to the following Tamil scholars:

Thiru. C. Sivachidambaram from Ariyalur District, Kavignar M. Jothi from Ranipet District, Pulavar A.Mayazhagu from Ramanathapuram District, Thiru. Muthurathinam from Erode District, Thiru. A.Nagarajan from Cuddalore District, Dr.Kadavur Manimaran from Karur District, Thiru. R.Duraimurugan from Kallakurichi District, Pulavar Su. Kandasami Pillai from Kanniyakumari District, to the family members of Late. R. Ellappan from Kancheepuram District, Thiru.A.Rathinakumar from Krishnagiri District and Thiru. Manur Pugazhendi from Coimbatore District;

Dr.V.Thenappan from Sivagangai District, Thiru. M.K.Subramanian from Chengalpattu District, Tmt. V.Manikkathal from Chennai District, Thiru. R.Mohan Kumar from Salem District, Thiru. Arumuga Seetharaman from Thanjavur District, Kavignar Kannimai from Dharmapuri District, Thiru. Durai Thillan from Dindigul District, to the family of Thiru. K.Pattabiraman from Tiruchirappalli District, and V. Balasubramanian from Tirunelveli District;

Tmt. Deiva. Sumathi from Tirupattur District, Thiru. A.Loganathan from Tiruppur District, Thiru. K.Paramasivan from Thiruvannamalai District, Thiru. S.K.Shanmugam from Thiruvallur District, Era. Shanmugavadivel from Tiruvarur District, Kavignar A. Ganesan from Thoothukudi District, A.Sivaramakrishnan from Tenkasi District and Thiru. Theni Seerudaiyan from Theni District;

Thiru.M.Chokkappan from Nagapattinam District, Thiru. C.Kailasam from Namakkal District, Thiru. P.Manivannan from the Nilgiris District, Thiru.V.K.Kasthurinathan from Pudukkottai District, Tmt. S.Vinothini from Perambalur District, Thiru. Nellai N.Chockalingam from Madurai District, Thiru. S.Paulraj from Mayiladuthurai District, Thiru. A.Subramanian from Virudhunagar District, to the family of the late Prof.P.Vettavarayan from Villupuram District and Thiru. M.Narayanan from Vellore District. All the Award winners were given a cheque of Rs. 25,000 each, commendation certificate and a shawl.

Best Translator Award:

The Best Translator Awards were given to Thiru. S. Sukumaran, Tmt. S.Rajeswari, Dr.M.Valarmathi, Dr. Raga. Vivekananda Gopal, Dr. A.S.Ilangovan, Dr.V.Chandran, Dr. R.Jamuna Krishnaraj, Prof. Tamilselvi, the Late. N.Dass and to the family members of Dr.M.Sampathkumar by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin. The award consists of a cheque of Rs. 2 lakh, a shawl and a tribute.

'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' scheme reaches another peak: Hon'ble Chief Minister gives medical kit to one crore and oneth beneficiary

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** handed over a medicine kit to the one crore and oneth beneficiary under the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' Scheme, declared open completed projects and inaugurated the services of medical equipment installed at the Government Hospitals -29.12.2022.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** at a function in Sannasipatti Village in Manikandam Panchayat Union in Tiruchirappalli District, on 29.12.2022, under the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' Scheme handed over a medical kit to the one crore and oneth beneficiary. In addition, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open new buildings for the Health Department, built at a cost of Rs. 12.39 crore and inaugurated the services of medical equipment, installed at the Government hospitals.

Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam

The ‘Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam’ Scheme was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 05.08.2021 at Samanapalli Village in Krishnagiri District. Under this scheme, people, those in the age of 45 years and above, under treatment for high blood pressure, Diabetes and other diseases are given medicines at their homes. Similarly, all health services required by poor people like, palliative care, physiotherapy and CAPD bags to kidney patients for self-dialysis are provided at the door steps of poor patients, through field workers.

Under the scheme, there are 10,969 women health volunteers, 4,848 mid-level health providers, palliative care nurses, physiotherapists and 2,448 health inspectors and 2,650 ASHA workers. A total of 463 specially designed vehicles are pressed into service with 463 groups of medical-oriented personnel to tour rural and urban areas.

Under the scheme, the first patient Tmt.Saroja of Samanapalli Village of Krishnagiri District on 05.08.2021 and 50 lakh and one[th] patient 75-year old Tmt.Panchalai Ammal of Sithalapakkam Village in Chengalpattu District, on 23.02.2022 were given medical assistance kits by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Today the one crore and one[th] patient Tmt. Meenakshi of Sannasipatti Village in Manikandam Panchayat Union in Tiruchirappalli District was given the medical kit by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

For improving the services under the scheme further 10,969 women health volunteers and 15,366 Anganwadi Centre workers were

given digital BP Apparatus by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu also declared open medical record room, seminar hall and lecture hall, constructed at a cost of Rs. 4.89 crore at the Kanniyakumari Government Medical College Hospital, X-ray room for cancer patients, built at a cost of Rs. 1.50 crore at the Villupuram Government Medical College Hospital, two District primary referral centres for children, one each at Kancheepuram and Ranipet Government headquarters Hospital, at a total cost of Rs.1.13 crore, outpatient wing, built at a cost of Rs. 1.50 crore at the Primary Health Centre at Nambiyampalayam in Tiruppur District and additional building at the upgraded Primary Health centre, built at a cost of Rs.2.24 crore. Totally, buildings for the Health Department, at a cost of Rs. 12.39 crore were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated use of medical equipment installed at the Government Hospitals.

Outpatient X-Ray Telecobalt unit at a cost of Rs. 4.50 crore at Villupuram Government Medical College Hospital and most modern C.T. Scan unit at a cost of Rs. 2.50 crore at Tambaram Government TB Hospital in Chengalpattu District.

Orders for the purchase of 46 new CB-NATT instruments to diagnose TB for achieving a TB-free State by the year 2025, were issued by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Incentive for health workers

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated an incentive scheme for the mid-level health providers, health inspectors and ASHA workers of the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' Scheme.

National Quality Certificate for 3 PHCs

For the first time in the State, three Government Primary Health Centres in Manikandam Panchayat Union in Tiruchirappalli District received National Quality Certificate and the same was shown to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who congratulated the staff of the PHC, for their achievement.

Hon'ble Chief Minister distributes welfare aid to 22,716 beneficiaries

Completed schemes costing Rs.238.41 crore dedicated to people in Tiruchirappalli District

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin**, at a Government event held at the Anna Stadium in Tiruchirappalli on 29.12.2022, dedicated to the people, 5,635 completed scheme works costing Rs. 238.41 crore, laid the foundation stone to 5,951 scheme works and distributed Government welfare assistance worth Rs. 79.06 crore to 22,716 beneficiaries.

Details of the completed scheme works dedicated to people: Many works inclusive of upgraded parks and roads, new bridges, children's centres, high mast electric lights in the Town Panchayats of Balakrishnampatti, Uppiliapuram, Koothappar, S. Kannanoor and Sirugamani and in the Municipalities of Lalgudi and Manapparai, additional buildings in Manapparai Government Headquarters Hospital, centre for production of micro fertilizer in weekly market, Sir C.V. Raman park set up at Srirangam Panchakarai area, Tiruchirappalli Municipal Corporation and parking lot for heavy duty lorries in Keezh Pulivar road worth Rs. 33.96 crore on behalf of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department;

Construction of a new bridge across South Vellaru in the Palakurichi area, Marungapuri Panchayat Union worth Rs. 2 crore on behalf of the Highways Department; New veterinary dispensaries at Natham, Thottiyam Taluk and

at Pachampettai, Lalgudi Municipality at an estimate of Rs. 80 lakh on behalf of the Animal Husbandry Department;

New additional office building for office of controller of examinations, constructed in the campus of E.V.R. Periyar College, Tiruchirappalli at an estimate of Rs. 60 lakh on behalf of the Higher Education Department;

Additional classroom buildings constructed in Nagoor Pachamalai Government Scheduled Tribes Residential Middle school, Thuraiyur Municipality at an estimate of Rs. 46 lakh on behalf of the Adi Dravidar Housing Development Corporation;

Classroom buildings with Headmaster's room in Government Scheduled Tribes Residential Primary Schools at Top Senkattupatti in Uppiliapuram Panchayat Union and at Thanneer Pallam and Chinapazhamalai in Thuraiyur Panchayat Union at an estimate of Rs. 60 lakh on behalf of the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department;

Office buildings with residence for Revenue Inspector at Sirukampur, Thuraiyur, Manapparai, Vaiyampatti, Valanadu, Thottiyam, Somarasampettai and Manikandam (Tiruchirappalli East and West) at an estimate of Rs. 2.40 crore on behalf of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department; and 5,598 works inclusive of completed infrastructure works under the All Village Anna Marumalarchi Scheme at an estimate of Rs. 197.58 crore on behalf of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

Totally, 5,635 works costing Rs.238.41 crore dedicated to people by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Details of the new scheme works for which foundation was laid:

New arts and science college building at Pannapatti Melpagam Village, Manapparai Taluk at a cost of Rs.14.95 crore on behalf of the Higher Education Department;

New sub health centre at Puthunatham and Thirumalayanpatti in Manapparai Municipality and buildings for an institute of obstetrics and gynaecology with 50 beds at the Government hospital in Lalgudi at an estimate of Rs. 7.25 crore on behalf of the Health and Family Welfare Department;

New veterinary dispensary buildings at Pulivalam, Musiri Panchayat Union, Poovalur Town Panchayat, at Sevanthampatti, Thathaiengarpettai Panchayat Union and at Koppampatti in Uppiliapuram Panchayat Union at an estimate of Rs. 2.14 crore on behalf of the Animal Husbandry Department; and

5,944 works inclusive of new school buildings under the All Village Anna Marumalarchi Thittam at an estimate of Rs. 283.95 crore on behalf of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department – totally, foundation was laid for 5,951 new scheme works at an estimate of Rs. 308.29 crore by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Details of the distribution of Government welfare assistance to beneficiaries:

Free house site patta to beneficiaries, welfare assistance to 1,448 beneficiaries under the welfare scheme for marginalized people and Chief Minister's Uzhavar Padhukappu Thittam at an estimate of Rs.6.86 crore on behalf of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department; apartments under the Pradan Mantri Awas Yojana to 1,392 beneficiaries at an estimate of Rs.33.40 crore on behalf of the Rural Development Department; welfare assistance like distribution of sewing machine, iron boxes and incentives for women education to 11,746 beneficiaries at a cost of Rs.77.02 lakh on behalf of the BC, MBC

and Minorities Welfare Department; welfare assistance to 354 beneficiaries for integrated Pannai Thittam, Micro Irrigation Scheme, production subsidy for paddy seed and oil seed at an estimate of Rs.1.16 crore on behalf of the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department; to 147 beneficiaries towards setting up farm-pond, solar electric motor, distributing subsidized electric motor, value adding machines to farmer-manufacturer teams at an estimate of Rs. 2.48 crore on behalf of the Agriculture Engineering Department; On behalf of the Co-operation Department crop loan, medium term loan, salary proof loan, loans for women and widows – Rs. 6.58 crore to 715 beneficiaries; to 591 beneficiaries by way of providing battery-operated special wheelchairs, tricycles, walking sticks, bank loans for starting small and micro scale industries and distribution of motorized sewing machine at an estimate of Rs. 57.71 lakh on behalf of the Welfare of the Differently Abled persons Department; to 1,000 beneficiaries by way of financial assistance towards natural and accidental deaths, marriage, pension and education at an estimate of Rs. 23.58 lakh on behalf of the Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department and to 311 Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries to the tune of Rs. 5.50 crore under the economic loan scheme by TAHDCO – totally Rs. 79.06 crore was distributed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to 22,716 beneficiaries.

Bank loan for Self Help Groups:

At an event held at Anna Sports Auditorium, Tiruchirappalli on 29.12.2022 on behalf of the

Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW) to provide bank credit linkage and other benefits to a total of 42,081 women self help groups all over Tamil Nadu to a value of Rs.2,548.04 crore, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu distributed the credit linkage and benefits to 2,764 women self help groups in Tiruchirappalli district alone benefiting 54,654 persons to an extent of Rs. 78 crore and presented Manimekalai award to 33 community-based organizations and Banker's award to 8 banks.

The TNCDW was started to improve the status of women through education, employment opportunities, economic development and self-reliance. It does the magnificent work of taking forward the Self Help Group through the provision of capacity development training

to self help groups through many poverty eradication schemes, creation of community-based organizations at the Panchayat and Taluk levels, bank credit linkage, industrial development and improvement of women's talents.

Through its implementation of the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Tamil Nadu State Urban Livelihoods Mission and the Deen Dayal Upadyaya Rural Skill Development Scheme, the TNCDW is creating a big change in the lives of countless poor, marginalized and middle-class people.

The Women Self Help Group (WSHG) Scheme was first started in the entire country by Muthamizharignar Kalaignar in 1989. Now, on the guidance of the TNCDW, SHGs have been created in all the districts in the state and schemes are being implemented skillfully for the economic development of the poor in rural and urban areas.

The SHGs have turned into institutions for under- privileged people for financial discipline and for taking decisions in a democratic way. The groups follow the five principles of convening meetings among themselves, savings, inter-lending among groups and their repayments and maintenance of account ledgers.

A total of 4.38 lakh SHGs with a membership of 50.24 lakh, are functioning in rural and urban areas in Tamil Nadu. For the year 2021-2022, a target of Rs. 20,000 crore was fixed for lending to the SHGs but it was exceeded and recorded an achievement by lending Rs. 21,392.52 crore to 4,08,740 SHGs. For the current financial year, a target of Rs. 25,000 crore has been fixed and up to 16.12.2022, bank credit linkage has been set up for 2,60,589 SHGs to an extent of Rs. 14,120.44 crore. Steps are taken to fulfill the target.

Links to bank loan assistance for Self Help Groups and other benefits:

At the event to provide bank credit linkage and other benefits to a total of 42,081 WSHGs in Tamil Nadu to the tune of Rs.2,548.04 crore, the Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed the credit linkage and other benefits to

2,764 women SHGs comprising 54,654 beneficiaries in Tiruchirappalli District to the extent of Rs. 78 crore. This will be followed up in other districts by the concerned Ministers of the district, MPs, MLAs and District Collectors.

Manimekalai awards for best performing Self Help Groups:

By way of encouraging community-based organizations –SHGs in rural and urban areas, village poverty eradication association, organizations at the panchayat, taluk, urban area and town/city levels - Muthamizharignar Kalaignar announced in 2006-2007, the Manimekalai awards. In the following many years, the award was not distributed. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu distributed the Manimekalai award for the year 2021-2022 to 33 community-based organizations, citations and cheques of Rs.55 lakh as a part of the awards. The awards were distributed to:

For taluk level community based organization – Kurinjipadi, Cuddalore District; For Panchayat level organizations – Ottiyampakkam (Chengalpattu District), Pechiparai (Kanniyakumari), Konnaiyar (Namakkal), Vadugapatti (Pudukkottai), Keezha Eral (Thoothukkudi); For village poverty eradication association – Erachakulam (Kanniyakumari), Keezhkathirpur (Kancheepuram), Konangipatti (Namakkal), Aayankudi (Pudukkottai) and Devasthanam (Tirupattur); WSHGs at Panchayat level – Vinayaka (Chengalpattu), Jansi Rani (Coimbatore) Jayam (Dindigul), Jupiter (Kanniyakumari), Manjal Nila (Nagapattinam), Mullai (Tenkasi), Sri Amman (Tiruppur), Vekkali Amman (Tirunelveli), Kurinji Malar (Tirupattur) and Danva (Villupuram); Town/City-level Organization – Nagercoil (Kanniyakumari); Urban Area organizations – Kaavaankarai (Chennai) and Ashtalakshmi (Tiruvarur); Urban SHGs - JaiGuru (Ariyalur), Aachi (Coimbatore), Amirthambal (Dindigul), Malligai (Kanniyakumari), Bangaru Adigal (Nagapattinam), Pettai Sunnambukara Theru (Namakkal), Amudham (Ranipettai), Madhina (Theni) and Sarojini (Tiruvannamalai).

BANKER's Awards:

The awards are distributed from the year 2008-2009 for the best banks and their branches so as to encourage them to lend more money to SHGs and to create a healthy competition among banks.

The awards are given to 3 best banks in the public, private and Rural/Co-operative sectors respectively, to the best 2 Branch offices of special banks for SHGs/women entrepreneurs and to 3 best Branch offices of non special banks for SHGs/women entrepreneurs. The award carries a citation and prize money also.

Banker's Awards for the year 2021-2022:

Best Public Sector Bank – Indian Bank; Best Private Sector Bank – HDFC; Best Rural Bank – Tamil Nadu Grama Bank; Awards for

Branch offices of special banks for SHGs/Women entrepreneurs – Indian Bank's Kaveripattinam and Chennai branches; Awards for Branch offices of non-special banks for SHGs/Women entrepreneur - Palacode and Karimangalam branches of Indian Bank and the Dharmapuri Branch of the Tamil Nadu Grama Bank. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu also distributed the cash award of Rs. 4 lakh through cheques.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M. K. Stalin at the function

I extend my affectionate respects to all of you.

Whatever happens in Tiruchi, happens on a gigantic scale. Even if it is a small event, it happens like a big Government function. Even if it is a public meeting, it takes on the scale of a big conference. If it is announced as a conference, it takes place as a mammoth conference. Only if it happens this way, it is Tiruchi. Only then it is K.N.Nehru. He has once again proved his reputation for hugeness with this event. Through the Department of Municipal Administration, Hon'ble Minister Nehru is creating enormous infrastructure facilities.

I extend my hearty appreciation and greetings to Nehru for conducting this event as a Government conference with great enthusiasm though he obtained the date (from me) for a Government function. After this event, I have to declare open the second unit of the Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd., and the SIPCOT complex at Manapparai. These are two very important achievements for Tiruchi.

Tamil Nadu's industrial sector is developing fast. New industries have started making a beeline to Tamil Nadu. The trend is not only from other states in India but from global institutions. We are attracting investment in new fields. This is being executed by our Industries Minister Thangam Thenarasu, present here, for whom duty is the topmost priority.

After the SIPCOT event, I have to go to Sannasipatti Village to meet the first beneficiary after crossing the one crore mark under the magnificent 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' scheme.

This scheme was launched after we formed the DMK rule. The first person to get treatment under this scheme was Saroja of Samanapalli Village in Krishnagiri District on August 5 last

year. This is a great scheme for the poor and marginalized people to get treatment at their own dwelling place when they don't have the facility to go to other places for treatment. In this one year, our Government has provided this treatment for one crore persons. This is not an ordinary achievement; it is like an achievement in a marathon race.

All people know that Ma.Subramanian, Health Minister and dear friend is a marathon athlete. He is not so only on the track; he has demonstrated through this scheme that he is so in tirelessly achieving targets in department activities also. On behalf of all of you, I congratulate and greet Minister Ma.Subramanian who has proved that he can extend the scheme not only to more than a crore people but to all the people in the state.

I appreciate Hon'ble Minister Nehru who has arranged this event in such an excellent manner and with so much enthusiasm and Hon'ble School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi who stood by him in this task. Anbil Mahesh's functioning reminds me of my very dear friend Anbil Poyyamozhi and redounds to his father's fair name. Younger brother Anbil Mahesh leaves no stone unturned in making the school education sector the very best in India.

Likewise, Thambi Udhayanidhi, a new face only to this dais and the Cabinet but a well acquainted person to you, an old face for you. There was criticism when he became a Minister. Criticism will certainly come; but he said: 'See my performance and then level your criticism.' When he became an MLA, criticism followed but he gained the appreciation of all by his actions.

Udhayanidhi has many responsibilities. Important portfolios like youth welfare, sports, women development, special scheme implementation, poverty eradication and rural

debt – all to uplift the poor and marginalized people in the state. I have great hopes he will perform excellently and upgrade these sectors. As Chief Minister, I hopefully expect that he will uplift them.

This Government event is being conducted as a people's festival. I convey my respects, thanks and greetings to our Principal Secretary Amudha, Managing Director of the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Women Development, Divyadarshini, District Collector, high officials of the district and the staff for co-ordinating and arranging this function excellently. I convey my appreciation also.

This function comprises six events

Linkage to bank credit for women self help groups,

- Manimekalai award,
- state-level banker's award,
- dedicating completed scheme works to people,
- laying foundation for new schemes and
- distribution of Government welfare assistance.

In this function welfare assistance to the tune of Rs. 79.06 crore are to be given to 22,716 persons; 5,635 completed scheme works valued at Rs. 238.40 crore are to be dedicated to people on this day alone; likewise foundation is to be laid to 5,951 works valued at Rs.308.29 crore. To sum up, this function is a major one to provide Tiruchi District benefits worth Rs. 625.76 crore.

I wish to share with you one more happy news with you.

At the past Legislative Assembly session (21.04.2022), I had announced that Olympic Academies would be created in the four zones of Tamil Nadu at the rate of one each for our state youth to get global-level training for winning international competitions like the Olympic. I am happy to inform that one such Olympic Academy will be set up in Tiruchi.

Tamil Nadu should compete globally, not merely in education, employment, knowledge and industrial development but in sports too. For that, we have to create sportspersons. This Academy will be a great help for that. This announcement will be a cause for happiness not only for Minister Udhayanidhi but also for the Ministers of this district Nehru and Anbil Mahesh.

We conduct Government events as people's functions. We arrange them so as to directly benefit more than one lakh people, to distribute welfare assistance of many kinds to people, to launch new schemes and declare open completed scheme works. This Government event is a symbol for this Dravidian Model Government to extend all help in all ways daily to every section of society. Our DMK rule is functioning as one that carries out many schemes to uplift the standard of living of the poor and the marginalized people. In this, the DMK Government is keen in formulating special schemes for women who constitute

50% of society. Our Muthamizharignar Thalaivar Kalaignar was the one who protected the welfare of women through schemes like equal rights to women in property, reservation in employment, reservation in local bodies for women and SHGs for women for their economic upliftment.

Our Government follows his path. We are implementing many welfare schemes like free bus travel for women and a monthly pension of Rs.1,000 through the 'Pudhumai Penn Thittam' for girl students to pursue higher education.

Women's socio-economic condition has gone up through the free bus travel; they are eager to start, coming out of home, small trades. This paves the basis for women's empowerment and development. Likewise, the enrolment of women in higher education has gone up on account of the distribution of Rs.1,000 for girl students of Government schools.

In this line, loan distribution to WSHGs has been arranged today. As Thambi Udhayanidhi has stated, our Muthamizharignar Thalaivar Kalaignar was the first Chief Minister in the whole of India to start women self help groups at Dharmapuri in 1989.

Loan on a larger scale was provided to WSHGs when I was the Local Administration Minister. Standing for hours together, I distributed the loans to several thousand women. They used to ask me when they came to receive the loan, 'Can't you sit and distribute', I told them: "I forget the pain in my legs when I see you smile while receiving the loan assistance". The standard of living of such debtors rose up and their families flourished. But after the regime change, the erstwhile rulers did not follow it up properly.

When I went on Assembly election campaign, women who met me, repeatedly emphasized and requested to correct it once we came to power. We have now rectified it and this event is a symbol for it.

A total of 4.38 lakh self help groups are functioning in Tamil Nadu under the rural

livelihoods mission and urban livelihoods mission. That they command a membership of 50.24 lakh shows how these organizations function in an excellent manner.

The WSHGs function democratically. For that they have to carry out five activities properly – convening meeting, adherence to savings, inter-exchange of debts, their repayment and maintenance of account books. It was the DMK Government that first showed keenness to involve nationalized banks, co-operative banks and primary agriculture co-operative societies in providing loans to WSHGs for meeting their economic needs and livelihood development.

A target of Rs. 20,000 crore was fixed as bank credit for SHGs for the year 2021-2022 but the target was exceeded to a total of Rs.21,392.52 crore for 4,08,740 SHGs. For the current financial year (2022-2023), the target is fixed at Rs. 25,000 crore and till 16.12.2022, bank credit linkage has been established for Rs. 14,120.44 crore for 2,60,589 SHGs. I am happy over this; steps will be taken to fulfill the target and we will achieve it.

We consider raising the quality of women's life as Government's duty and responsibility. So, Muthamizharignar Thalaivar Kalaignar announced in 2007 that 'Manimekalai' award would be given to the best of the WSHGs in performance. This award gave a great impetus and prosperity to the WSHGs. The distribution of the award started in 2007 was stopped by the erstwhile rulers. We did not bother about it. When we assumed the responsibility of governance, we announced the revival of the award and today, I am happy to state that the award, along with citations and prize money of Rs. 55 lakh, has been distributed to organizations belonging to 33 communities.

To encourage banks to lend more money to self help groups, banker's award was instituted and given to banks and their branch offices from 2008-2009. The state-level banker's award, suspended for the last 3 years due to the Corona pandemic, is to be revived from 2021-2022 and today we are distributing the award to 8 banks.

I could feel from your faces that even women in villages on the fringes of Tamil Nadu's borders are economically self-dependent and lead a prosperous life.

Do you know who said this – "However much one is neglected and disrespected, victory is sure if there is a firm resolve to complete the task on hand and there is perseverance". It is our Perarignar Anna who shaped us. Hence, the self help groups will be victorious, as per Anna's statement, if they continue their efforts without any slackening.

The progress of a country can be gauged from the condition of the women of there. Our Muthamizharignar Thalaivar Kalaignar said: 'The shape of our shadow is visible only in light; We realize our strength only during testing times'. Our Government is implementing countless schemes for the progress and welfare of women.

I wish to state here that bank credit linkage is provided to self help groups, as has been done

in this event today, in other districts also with the participation of the Ministers of that district, MLAs, MPs, local body representatives and District Collectors.

This is just a beginning. Such welfare assistance will continue. The aim of the Dravidian Model rule is to make Tamils and Tamil Nadu prosper. We are at it without any slackening. We are fulfilling our aims without any hindrance. However much we are criticized, we continue our rule without deviating from the Dravidian model policy.

Today, we are implementing our Government's policies and schemes that are based on the ideology of 'all things for all people', setting an example for many other states in India. You can understand the pace of the Dravidian Model rule.

Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in attracting industries in India. It is a model state in India in framing the policy on climate change. We have conducted the Chess Olympiad to the admiration of the world. It is our Government that has created infrastructure facilities that can withstand any torrential rain or great floods.

The storm struck; it rained cats and dogs but the Government worked on nonetheless. We did not work for any one's appreciation. We work to protect the people. The reason for mentioning this, is a paper brought to me by my assistants last evening in my house. I went through that paper. In the last one year alone, I had travelled 8,549 kilometres; the number of events I had participated in that journey was 647-551 Government events and 96 party events. The number of beneficiaries of welfare assistance, distributed in many districts across Tamil Nadu, was 1,03,74,355. In one year one crore people have directly received welfare assistance.

In between I was affected by Corona. I was unwell slightly. There was pain in the leg and underwent treatment. Even such a situation did not hinder my journey; people-oriented work did not stop. It will never stop. This is the truth.

Whether it is Number One Chief Minister or Number One Tamil Nadu, what is the right index to measure it? It is the smiles of the poor and the happiness of women I see here. It is enough if people are happy with our actions. Perarignar Anna termed this as 'We see God in the smile of the poor'. My policy is: "We see Perarignar Anna and Muthamizharignar Kalaignar in the smile of the poor".

This is people's Government! It is for the people! These achievements will continue again and again.

I was in charge of the WSHGs when I was the Minister for Local Administration and Deputy Chief Minister. The department has now been given to Thambi Udhayanidhi. On behalf of all of you, I wish to request Thambi Udhayanidhi to toil for the uplift of these self help groups. Events in this regard should be held in every district one after the other. With this affectionate request, I take leave of you expressing thanks for giving me this opportunity.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Chief Minister inspects sand sculpture creating awareness about violence against women

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** inspected the sand sculpture on the Marina on 'Uprooting violence against women', made on behalf of the 181 Women Helpline- 30.12.2022.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin inspected the sand sculpture against violence on women, designed on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Women's Help Centre 181, on the Marina Beach, on 30.12.2022. The sculpture is a symbolic move to get rid of violence against women and in support of protection to women. The Women Helpline 181 of the Government of Tamil Nadu is to ensure protection of women and children and functions all 24 hours in a day. Through this confidential helpline, women can bring to notice the violence against them due to family problems, get legal and medical assistance as well as mental health consultation. This helpline can be approached through toll free number 181 and will also provide online consultation through email. Women can also get information about welfare schemes for women and assistance provided to women affected by family violence.

To create awareness about the assistance provided to women for their protection, the 181 helpline has depicted a sand sculpture on the Marina beach. After seeing the sculpture, the Hon'ble Chief Minister signed on the awareness placard supporting all steps to provide assistance to women against violence.

In his message, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said:

"We will root out violence against women,

We will create a society in which women face no hassles,

We will take a pledge for the protection of women".

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** visited a special photo exhibition in connection with the 50th death anniversary of Moodharignar Rajaji on 26.12.2022. The exhibition organized by the Department of Information and Public Relations seeks to explain Rajaji's contribution to politics, literature and administration, besides narrating his biography. Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources Thiru. Duraimurugan, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development Thiru. I. Periasamy and Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department Thiru. E.V. Velu, Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information Dr. R. Selvaraj I.A.S., and other higher officials were present.

50th Death Anniversary of Moodharignar Rajaji

In connection with his 50th death anniversary of Moodharignar Rajaji, Hon'ble Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Thiru. T.M. Anbarasan and Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Thiru. Ma.Subramanian, Mayor of Greater Chennai Corporation Tmt. R. Priya, MLA Thiru. A.M.V. Prabakar Raja, Secretary to Government, Tamil Development and Information Dr.R. Selvaraj I.A.S., and Director, of Information and Public Relations Dr. V.P. Jeyaseelan I.A.S., paid floral tributes and their respects to a portrait of Moodharignar Rajaji, placed near his statue at the High Court complex, Parrys Corner, Chennai, on 25.12.2022.

Hon'ble Chief Minister constitutes Board for welfare of Tamils living in other states and abroad

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu issued orders nominating chairman and members for the Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Board for the welfare of Tamils living in other states in India and in foreign countries.

The Government of Tamil Nadu headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin,** following the footsteps of the Muthamizharignar Dr.Kalaignar, has been implementing many welfare schemes. The Government has introduced schemes for the benefit of Tamils living abroad. The Government provides necessary assistance through the respective embassies, starts institutions in other countries to teach Tamil language and has many schemes for exchange of Tamil art and culture. For the benefit of Tamils living abroad, the State Government on March 1, 2011 enacted the Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Act. The then Government, led by Dr.Kalaignar also announced that a welfare board would be formed for the non-resident Tamils and through the Board, welfare programmes would be implemented. But the successive Governments did not show interest in the functioning of the Board.

When the present Government came to power in 2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced that a Welfare Board would be formed for non-resident Tamils. As per the Hon'ble Chief Minister's announcement, the Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Board was constituted with the following as the Chairman and members:

Thiru. Karthikeya Sivasenathipathi of Pazhayakottai in Kangeyam Taluk in Tiruppur District will be chairman of the Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Board. The following are the non-official members of the Board: Thiru. Arumugham Parasuraman of Mauritius, Thiru. Mohammed Faisal of London, Thiru. Siddique Meeran of United Arab Emirates, Caldwell Velnambi of North America, Thiru. G.V.Ram alias Gopalakrishnan of Singapore and Thiru. Pugazh Gandhi, who lives in Chennai.

The official members include Secretary, Public Department, Additional Chief Secretary of Home, Prohibition and Excise Departments or anyone nominated by him, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department or any one nominated by him, Additional Chief Secretary, Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department or any one nominated by him, Special Secretary/ Joint Secretary/ Deputy Secretary, Overseas Tamils Affairs

Department and the Managing Director of the Overseas Manpower Corporation. The Director of the Non-resident Tamils Welfare and Rehabilitation Department will be the member secretary of the Board. The term of office of the Chairman and members of the Board will be 3 years from the date of issue of the Government order.

To enable the Board to implement the welfare schemes for Tamils living in other states and for non-resident Tamils, Rs.5 crore has been sanctioned for the Welfare Fund by the Government. Apart from this, Rs. 1.40 crore has been allotted for the capital expenditure and Rs. 3 crore for recurring and administrative expenses.

A database will be formed to collect details about non-Resident Tamils and for implementing the welfare schemes for them. Registered members of the Board will be covered by life insurance and medical insurance and will be given identity cards. The board will also provide education grant and marriage grant to the wards of Tamils of low income group, who were displaced to other countries for employment and died while in service.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's move will definitely help to propagate Tamils in foreign countries and to protect Tamils who live in other States of the country.

'Self-rule'

February 18: Birth anniversary of Sindhanai Sirpi M.Singaravelar

Why don't the English realize that Self-Governance is of prime importance to Indians as it is to the English? Why should they feel hurt if we struggle for Self-Governance in a non-violent way?

The English fear that foreigners will invade England. In England, there have been riots and strikes; there has been unrest. When things are like this in their own country, why should they think that in case of self-rule in India, there will be unrest and chaos in this country. The Englishman thinks in this way because of his ignorance. He thinks in this way because his mind is full of ignorance and greed.

- Speech of Thiru. M. Singaravelar to the worker of Choolai Cotton Mill, Chennai on 19.05.1921.

மக்களைத் தேடி
மருத்துவம்

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** handed over a medicine kit to Tmt. Meenakshi, the one-crore-and-oneth beneficiary under the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' Scheme, at a function held in Sannasipatti village in Manikandam Panchayat Union in Tiruchirappalli District, on 29.12.2022.

Tamilarasu

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The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** distributed welfare benefits and bank loans worth Rs.78 crore to 2,764 women Self Help Groups in Tiruchirappalli District benefiting 54,654 persons, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Corporation for the Development of Women, at Anna Stadium, Tiruchirappalli on 29.12.2022.

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